

## Personal Statement

### Joseph Crane

Joseph Crane is a pianist, composer and teacher currently based in Oxford, UK. He began formal lessons with pianist Philip Lange, subsequently winning prizes in numerous national competitions including his first cash prize at the Windsor Piano Competition. He then received a scholarship to study piano under Philip Fowke and Penelope Roskell, as well as composition under Deirdre Gribbin at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2015, graduating in 2019 with a first-class bachelor's degree with honours.

Joseph has played in several venues including Cadogan Hall, New College (Oxford), the Denis Arnold Hall (Oxford), 49 Queen's Gate Terrace (South Kensington) for the Vernon Ellis Foundation, St. Alfege Church, the Old Royal Naval College and venues in and around Nice (France). One of his passions in repertoire lies with modern and contemporary music. Joseph has worked with Robert Saxton, commissioned works by composer Caitlin Harrison and has frequently played new works by young composers for auditions to the national colleges of music and composition competitions. Despite this however, Joseph also feels at home when performing staple repertoire such as Bach, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. Some past engagements include participating in the Oxford Chamber Music Festival with violinist Marie Schreer, an all-improvisation recital in Oxford and the New Lights Contemporary Piano Festival. Joseph is the principle organist for the Glyme Valley Churches (Oxfordshire), where he also occasionally sings as a countertenor. Joseph has previously sung as a choral scholar of Exeter College Chapel Choir, Oxford.

As a composer, Joseph has frequently performed his own works. 2019 saw the premiere of his piece *A Sense of Living*. His earlier work, *Litany*, was premiered in a solo piano recital in Sherborne (Dorset) in 2017. In the same year, Joseph was commissioned to write a clarinet quartet for fellow students of Trinity Laban. He was granted the Michael James bursary in 2011 for compositions performed in the Wimborne Minster (Dorset) As well as studying under Deirdre Gribbin, Joseph also received composition tuition from film-score orchestrator John Ashton Thomas, Sam Hayden and jazz trumpeter Laura Jurd.

Joseph is an experienced teacher, having taught many pupils of all ages since 2011. Joseph has taught a wide range of abilities from complete beginners to post-grade 8 students as well as working with those with special needs such as Dyslexia, ADHD, Autism and Down's Syndrome. Joseph frequently prepares his students for graded syllabuses and performances/recitals. He has also given group classes to up to forty students in schools around South East London, introducing them to different styles of music and piano repertoire. Currently, Joseph practises private teaching, both in Oxford and London and works as a peripatetic piano teacher at d'Overbroeck's School, Oxford.

Away from professional life, Joseph enjoys reading, painting, arts and crafts, learning languages, aviation, visiting art galleries and cooking. He also occasionally writes poetry and has had his work read out and discussed at the Thomas Hardy Society.