

Sasha Siem

Biog

Born in London to a British mother and Norwegian father, Sasha began playing the 'cello and writing, recording and performing her own songs at an early age.

She studied music at Cambridge and Harvard and by her early twenties, she had written music for the London Symphony Orchestra, The Royal Opera House, Rambert Dance Company, Opera North, The Aldeburgh Festival, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Neue Vocalisten Stuttgart, The London Sinfonietta, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2010 she became one of the youngest people to win a prestigious British composer award, which cemented her reputation as one of the most exciting young composers of her generation.

Sasha has also participated in a range of collaborations with electro artists including Samson of bpitch control – who she met while living in Berlin in 2009 - and has performed her songs at venues across Europe, including the Royal Opera House, London; HBC, Berlin; La Blanchisserie, Paris; Le Poisson Rouge, NYC.

The Guardian recently noted that, "Siem is making waves in the music scene." Of her work for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, *The Times* wrote, "Siem is clearly a gifted musician."

Knots and do-nots – Debut Album

This year, Sasha will release her debut album - *knots and do-nots* - a daring collection of songs, which seductively entices us on an adventure to the frontiers of song and psyche.

Sasha has been as much influenced by contemporary art-song composers such as G. Kurtag and Claude Vivier as by pioneering singer-songwriters such as Tom Waits, Jacques Brel, Bjork, Joanna Newsom etc.

Her string quartet conjure a unique and compelling sound world - intricately crafted yet driven by raw emotion.

Upcoming projects

11 September 2012 - Sasha will perform a version of *Knots and do-nots* with the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra as part of the Ultima festival in the legendary Aula Hall in Oslo.

November 2012 - Sasha will tour Europe and America with a staged version of *Knots and do-nots*, directed by Ted Huffman

Sasha begins developing her second album with ICE (International Contemporary Ensemble) later this year.

Press quotes:

Part brainiac composer, part wistful singer-songwriter, Sasha Siem has written a pioneering suite of completely original songs for string quartet and voice.

Time Out NYC

Siem combines the intimacy of a singer/songwriter with the detailed instrumental flourishes and timbral experimentations of great chamber music writing.

BBC Music Magazine

*Siem is making waves in the music scene. **The Guardian UK***

*Siem's brilliant little song is pared to the bare bone.. and locks us into traumatised stasis. **The Spectator UK***

*Siem is clearly a gifted composer... The ear was beguiled. **The Times UK***

A favorite in the program was Sasha Siem – an ungainsayable life force.

Financial Times UK