Helen Abbott and Marie Rolf

Master Class

Friday, April 12, 2019
3:30-5:00 P.M.
ESM 305

From *Cinq poèmes de Charles Baudelaire*  
1. Le balcon  
3. Le jet d’eau  
5. La mort des amants

Virginia Sheffield, soprano  
Brian Wong, piano

*Trois chansons de Bilitis* (Pierre Louÿs) (complete)  
1. La flûte de Pan  
2. La chevelure  
3. Le tombeau des Naïades

Kyrsten Chambers-Jones, mezzo-soprano  
Jesslyn Gunawan, piano
Helen Abbott

Professor Helen Abbott is a specialist in nineteenth-century French poetry and music at the University of Birmingham UK. She explores ways of writing about word-music relationships in poetic language, in critical theories, and using digital methodologies. She directs the Baudelaire Song Project which has just launched its database of 1,600 songs in 25 languages, and 40 different musical genres www.baudelairesong.org/search, and offers a new networked model for analysing and visualising word/music relations in songs (AHRC-funded 2015–2019). She is author of three books: Baudelaire in Song 1880–1930 (OUP, 2017); Parisian Intersections (Peter Lang, 2012); Between Baudelaire and Mallarmé (Ashgate, 2009). A classically-trained soprano, Professor Abbott is also in demand as a specialist language coach for professional and early career classical musicians working on French repertoire, and was recently consultant and language coach on a Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2018 nominated album Voyages (Signum, 2017) with Mary Bevan (soprano) and Joseph Middleton (piano).