

NOËMIA X T | TENEBRAE
PASSION & PRECISION

FACULTY

LAURA NEWEY
OLIVIA SHOTTON
TOM ROBSON
JONATHAN HOWARD
SANDERS LAU

|| N I I V A ||

6-11
JUL 2026

A six-day
masterclass &
concert for
aspiring and
early-career
singers.

|| NOËMIA INSTITUTE OF
VOCAL ARTISTRY ||



Thank you for your interest in the inaugural edition of **NIVA**, the **NOËMA Institute of Vocal Artistry**.

NOËMA believes deeply in the responsibility to nurture the next generation of choral artists who will shape the future of our field. In many parts of the world, young singers have access to specialised training in ensemble singing at the highest level. Yet, in our region, such opportunities remain rare. NIVA is our response to that need.

We are especially thrilled to be collaborating again with **Tenebrae** on this new initiative. **Four guest artists** from the world-renowned British choral supergroup will join us to provide a unique summer course. Participants will work in an intensive, collaborative setting alongside Tenebrae artists to explore what it means to sing as an ensemble at a professional level.

This experience will refine your skills and shape how you approach music-making both individually and collectively. I look forward to meeting you.

Sanders Lau

Artistic Director & Founder
NOËMA



6–11 JULY 2026

INTRODUCTION

NIVA is a **six-day masterclass** for aspiring and early-career singers and conductors dedicated to choral music. It focuses on ensemble singing as a foundation for artistic excellence and a sustainable vocal career.

Four Tenebrae artists lead NIVA together with NOËMA's Artistic Director, Sanders Lau. NIVA provides a hands-on, performance-focused environment where participants take part in individual lessons, group coaching, workshops, and rehearsals, working closely with Tenebrae and NOËMA to build advanced musicianship, ensemble skills, and communication techniques essential for careers in ensemble, solo, and chamber music across different styles.

The Institute culminates in a **Showcase Concert**, where participants perform as a chamber ensemble, and alongside Tenebrae artists and NOËMA. Highlights include Frank Martin's *Mass for double choir*. NIVA offers a rare opportunity for emerging singers to work with world-class artists.

Applications are open to singers of all backgrounds. Priority will be given to applicants currently pursuing or who have completed undergraduate training in classical singing or choral conducting, as well as young professionals. Observers of all backgrounds are also welcome.

TENEBRAE



Described as “phenomenal” (The Times) and “devastatingly beautiful” (Gramophone Magazine), award-winning choir Tenebrae is one of the world’s leading vocal ensembles. Under the direction of Nigel Short, Tenebrae has earned international acclaim for its interpretations. It has won two BBC Music Magazine Awards and an Edison Classical Music Award, an Opus Klassik Award, and earned a Grammy nomination.

GUEST ARTISTS



Laura Newey
Soprano



Olivia Shotton
Alto



Tom Robson
Tenor



Jonathan Howard
Bass

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before NIVA

Applicants will undergo a selection process.

Successful candidates will receive:

- Scores in advance for preparation
- Guidance on expectations
- A clear framework to ensure meaningful participation

During NIVA

Over the week, participants will prepare to perform as a conductor-less chamber ensemble in the Showcase concert. With foundational training led by NOĒMA's Artistic Director, Sanders Lau, participants will be **joined by Tenebrae artists from Day 3 onwards** and receive intensive daily coaching and rehearsals.

Days 1–2	Afternoon Evening	Foundational coaching and workshops Rehearsals with NOĒMA
Day 3	Afternoon Evening	Chamber ensemble rehearsal Sectional rehearsals with NOĒMA
Days 4–5	Morning Afternoon Evening	Individual lessons Chamber ensemble coaching Sectional rehearsals with NOĒMA Tutti rehearsals with NOĒMA
Day 6	Afternoon	Dress Rehearsal Showcase Concert

After NIVA

We hope participants will carry these experiences into their own musical paths as performers, educators, and leaders in their respective endeavours. Outstanding participants may be invited to perform with NOĒMA in future projects.

SHOWCASE CONCERT

11 JULY 2026 (SAT)

3 PM

First Half NIVA Participants
Tenebrae Artists

Works by Byrd, Purcell, Finzi,
and Vaughan Williams, etc.

Second Half NIVA Participants
Tenebrae Artists
NOËMA

Frank Martin
Mass for double choir
and works by Nystedt,
Whitacre, and Adrian Wong

Programme subject to change.
Venue to be announced.



APPLICATION

NIVA offers **eight auditioned spots**. Applicants should demonstrate vocal competence, promising musicality, good musicianship, and a strong interest in ensemble singing. Applications are open to singers of all backgrounds. Priority is given to those currently pursuing or who have completed undergraduate training in classical singing or choral conducting. Applicants should submit the [Application Form](#) alongside **audition video(s)** of their singing.

Deadline: **30 April 2026** (23:59 HKT)

Age Limit: 18–29

Audition video requirements:

- **Set Piece:** *Sing joyfully* by William Byrd
 - [Click here for the score](#)
 - Tempo: as least ♩ = c.116, recorded a cappella
- **Optional Own Choice:** A sacred aria or an art song
 - It may be recorded with or without accompaniment

Tuition Fee

\$4,280 HKD

Includes:

- Scores
- All coaching, workshops, and rehearsals
- Two 45min individual lessons with a Tenebrae artist

Observers

Two sessions on 9 and 10 July will be open for observations.

Details will be announced later.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

LAURA NEWEY

Soprano



Laura Newey is a soprano based in London. Winner of the 2024 John Kerr Award for English Song, she performs with ensembles including Tenebrae, Collegium Vocale Gent, St Martin's Voices, Contrapunctus, Ensemble Pro Victoria, and ORA Singers, as well as leading professional church choirs across London. She was a 2024/25 VOCES8 UK Scholar, also deputising with VOCES8 during 2024 for engagements in the UK and Germany.

Recent and upcoming solo highlights include Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* with Instruments of Time & Truth, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with St Martin's Voices, Paul Drayton's *St Mark Passion* with Three Spires Singers, and a programme of Monteverdi and Strozzi with Ensemble Pro Victoria. Laura was recently selected for Collegium Vocale Gent's 2025 Solo Bach Masterclass, culminating in a performance of arias from Bach cantatas with Collegium Vocale Gent at Concertgebouw Brugge.

Laura trained originally as a pianist before discovering singing at university. She held choral and academic scholarships at Keble College, Oxford, graduating in 2021 with a First in Music. From 2022-23, she was a Choral Scholar at St Martin-in-the-Fields. She studies with Julie Kennard.

OLIVIA SHOTTON

Alto



Olivia graduated from the Royal Academy of Music, London, with Distinction in the MA in Choral Conducting. She received a DipRam award for outstanding performance, and the Sir Thomas Armstrong Choral Leadership Prize. Subsequently, Olivia was appointed as a Fellow at the Academy, where she founded The CONVENTional Project, an early music ensemble specialising in Italian convent music. The group continues to perform professionally. Beyond the Academy, Olivia has continued to develop her conducting through the RPS Women Conductors 'Advance' course, Glover-Edwards Conducting Programme, Genesis Sixteen Conducting Scholarship, Dartington International Summer School Advanced Conductor programme, and as a Fellow of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

Her conducting engagements include her role as Assistant Conductor for Handel's 'Giustino' (Royal Ballet and Opera, London), Assistant Conductor for Puccini's 'La Bohème' (Longborough Festival Opera), Conductor for 'Dido and Aeneas' (University of London), Assistant Chorus Master for Mahler 'Symphony no. 3' (Royal Academy of Music), Assistant Musical Director for 'Hansel and Gretel' (British Youth Opera), and she was a Grand Finalist in the London International Choral Conducting Competition in 2024.

Olivia leads workshops on behalf of Tenebrae, The Sixteen, and London Youth Choirs, and she is the Conductor of the University of London Chamber Choir and the University of Greenwich Choir.

TOM ROBSON

Tenor



Tom Robson is a freelance singer, teacher, and conductor based in London. Tom read Music at Royal Holloway, University of London, before gaining a Master of Music in Vocal Studies from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he studied with Brian Parsons and Janice Chapman.

Tom is a Lay-Clerk at Westminster Cathedral in London and enjoys a busy freelance career working with some of the UK's top ensembles including Tenebrae, The Sixteen, Gallicantus, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (the OAE), The Gabrieli Consort, The BBC Singers, Arcangelo, ORA, and La Nuova Musica. He has had the privilege of performing in many of the world's most prestigious concert venues, including a few years ago making his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Until 2018, Tom was an Associate Lecturer in Music at the University of Chichester, where his principal responsibilities were teaching choral conducting and directing the choirs, and in 2019 took over the role of musical director for the amateur chamber choir *Chichester Chorale*. Tom teaches singing at The King's School, Canterbury, as well as privately.

Tom is in frequent demand as an oratorio soloist and recitalist, with a particular interest in English Song. Recent recitals include a programme of music by William Byrd with viol consort *Arculo*, and a recital of songs by Michael Head and Roger Quilter with pianist Robert Mingay Smith. He has performed across the UK, Europe, Singapore, Hong Kong, the USA & Australia with regular television and radio broadcasts across Europe. He can be heard on over 40 commercial recordings and on the soundtracks of many films and video games.

For more details, please visit: www.tomedwardrobson.com or follow Tom on X (formerly Twitter) or Facebook @tomrobson.

JONATHAN HOWARD

Bass



For the last fifteen years, Johnny has been one of the world's most sought-after choral singers. Since early 2025, he has been one of Tenebrae's regular basses and also the group's North American manager. Between 2010 and 2024, Johnny was the bass and Creative Director of the multi-Grammy-Award-winning ensemble *The King's Singers*, with whom he performed over 1,400 concerts in 60 countries, appearing on the world's most prestigious stages, including New York's Carnegie Hall, the Royal Albert Hall in London, and the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, as well as appearing regularly in venues across Hong Kong.

Under his creative guidance, *The King's Singers* were inducted into Gramophone magazine's *Hall of Fame* and invited to perform an NPR Music *Tiny Desk* concert, and commissioned over thirty new works from composers including Joe Hisaishi, Eric Whitacre, and Judith Bingham, and recorded over 30 albums, including the Grammy-nominated *Gold*. He has taught thousands of choral singers across the world, through workshops, residencies and Summer Schools. As a soloist, Johnny is passionately working with composers to create a new songbook designed specifically for bass voices.

In 2024, Johnny founded *Classical Not Boring*, an educational movement designed to build deeper connections between the classical music industry and its audiences. He currently teaches at the Royal College of Music in London, the University of Southern California, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Beyond his performing career, he is Head of Programming for the international *Classical Pride* festival, board member of the London Gay Men's Chorus, and a podcast host for Classic FM.

Johnny is absolutely thrilled to be returning to Hong Kong this summer to work with NOĒMA again, visit friends, and eat as much dim sum as possible. *Do1ze6 saai3 nei5dei6 ge3 jau5sam1 jiu1cing2!*

NOĒMA



NOĒMA is a leading professional choir in Hong Kong, founded in 2022 by Artistic Director Sanders Lau. The ensemble is dedicated to advancing Hong Kong's choral landscape and has quickly established itself as one of the city's foremost artistic forces. Recent highlights include collaborations with internationally renowned vocal groups Tenebrae, and Vox Luminis with Lionel Meunier, bringing world-class choral artistry to local audiences. NOĒMA has performed to critical acclaim, with invitations from presenters including HKU MUSE, Tai Kwun, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival (HKAF). Its sold-out cross-disciplinary production *Garden of Repose* at the HKAF was shortlisted for the 2024 Classical:NEXT Innovation Award.

2026 highlights include the NOĒMA Institute of Vocal Artistry (NIVA), and two multidisciplinary theatrical productions, namely *Song from FAR Away // FAR Away from Song*, and *Songs of Being*. The choir also serves as a supporting organisation for the Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival, actively contributing to the growth of Hong Kong's choral community.

@noema.hk

SANDERS LAU

Artistic Director & Founder



Sanders Lau is a leading choral conductor in Hong Kong and the founder and Artistic Director of NOĒMA, a professional chamber choir dedicated to advancing the city's choral landscape. Recent highlights include collaborations with world-renowned ensembles Tenebrae and Vox Luminis. Their multimedia production, *Garden of Repose*, at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, was shortlisted for the 2024 Classical:NEXT Innovation Award.

Known for thoughtful programme curation, Sanders maintains a specialised interest in early music and champions contemporary works, giving many Hong Kong and world premieres. As Resident Conductor of Die Konzertisten, he has collaborated with distinguished conductors such as Stephen Layton, Jonathan Cohen, John Butt, and Felix Yeung. As a singer, he has appeared at Musikfest Bremen (Germany), Collegium Vocale Crete Senesi (Italy), Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (USA), and Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute (Canada).

A sought-after choral artist, Sanders regularly guest-conducts, adjudicates, and leads masterclasses for organisations local and abroad, including the Hong Kong Arts Festival, Voices of Singapore Festival, and Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod. A dedicated educator, he works closely with the Hong Kong Inter-School Choral Festival, coaching numerous local schools. He also leads annual conducting courses for teachers and young professionals, and has given masterclasses at major universities across Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific. In 2026, he launches the NOĒMA Institute of Vocal Artistry (NIVA) for advanced choral training.

In 2023, Sanders won First Prize and two Special Awards at the Romano Gandolfi International Competition for Choral Conductors in Italy. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and The Chinese University of Hong Kong.