

Sarah Watts

Director of Performance, University of Sheffield

Performance Video Links

Anne-Marie O'Farrell, *Ruach*

<https://youtu.be/aQbp2EiQFOE>

Eric Dolphy, *God Bless the Child*

<https://youtu.be/-VM5AqMDupI>



Dr. Sarah Watts studied clarinet at the Royal Academy of Music with Angela Malsbury and Victoria Soames Samek (bass clarinet). Sarah then decided to specialize in the bass clarinet and continued her studies at the Rotterdam Conservatorium in bass clarinet with Henri Bok, funded by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and a Leverhulme Trust Studentship. Sarah was awarded the Exxon prize for the best classical music student in Rotterdam.

Successes include: Winner, UK Howarth Clarinet Competition (2000); Winner, Hawkes Clarinet Prize (RAM) (2001); Winner, Sir Arthur Bliss Chamber Music Prize (2000); Winner of Wind Section and Faber Prize, UK Performing Australian Music Competition (2001) (her recital was broadcast on ABC radio); Finalist, Wind Section, Royal Overseas League Competition (2000).

Sarah specializes on the bass clarinet and has gained an international reputation as an artist, teacher and researcher on the instrument. She has performed solo repertoire across the UK, Ireland, Asia, Europe and the Americas and has attracted composers including Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Piers Hellawell and William Sweeney to write works for her. In January 2003, Sarah performed a solo bass clarinet recital in London's Purcell Room as part of the Park Lane Group Young Artist Series.

Sarah is Director of Performance at the University of Sheffield and previously taught bass clarinet at the Royal Northern College of Music. Sarah hosts bass clarinet and clarinet courses on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland and has given workshops on bass clarinet technique at many establishments around the world.

Sarah performs with Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, rarescale and SCAW. She has completed a PhD at Keele University, focusing on bass clarinet multiphonic analysis, and has published *Spectral Immersions: A Comprehensive Guide to the Theory and Practice of Bass Clarinet Multiphonics* via Metropolis Publishers.

Sarah is a Henri Selmer Paris Artist, a Vandoren UK Artist and a Silverstein Works Artist. In 2016, she was made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in London.