

Samuel Wilson Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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Education

Guildhall School of Music and Drama
BMus (Hons):
Composition
2nd Study Jazz Piano

Recent / Upcoming Engagements

2025-6	MD & Associate SD for Stiles & Drewe's 'Three Little Pigs', CFT & Unicorn Theatre
2025	Orchestrator for 'Broadway to Bridgnorth', St Leonard's Church Bridgnorth
2025	Music Preparation for 'Parsifal' (new orchestration by Matthew King), The Mahler Players
2025-6	Deputy Keys 2 for 'Titanique', Criterion Theatre West End
2025	MD, Arranger for 'Grease', Trinity Laban
2025	Orchestrator, MD for 'The Magic of Animation: Heroes and Villains', Cadogan Hall
2025	MD for 'Betty Blue Eyes', Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
2025	Arranger, Keyboard Programmer for 'The Wedding Singer', Trinity Laban
2018-25	Orchestrator, MD for West End Does Christmas, Cadogan Hall
2024	Arranger & Orchestrator for Criterion 150 Year Anniversary Gala, Criterion Theatre
2024	Orchestrator for the London Concertante's touring 'Music of James Bond' concert
2024	MD, Keyboard Programmer for 'High School Musical', Trinity Laban
2024	Arranger for 'The Paddington Bear Experience', County Hall London
2024	Arranger, Orchestrator for 'On Your Doorstep', Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Tour
2023	MD, Associate SD for 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', CFT & Unicorn Theatre (Offie Nomination)
2023	Orchestrator for the London Concertante's touring 'Christmas Movies' concert
2023	Arranger, Rehearsal MD for 'Peaky Blinders: The Rise', Immersive Everywhere
2023	Orchestrator for 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', UK Tour/West End/Birmingham Rep
2023	Arranger / MD for 'Grease', Secret Cinema Birmingham NEC
2023	MD, Keyboard Programmer for 'Loserville', Trinity Laban
2023	Orchestrator for 'De Broadway a Hollywood', Cartuja Center Sevilla
2023	Orchestrator for the Young Musicians Platform Concert, BBC NI / Ulster Orchestra
2023	Orchestrator for the London Concertante's touring 'West End Musicals' concert
2022	Orchestrator for 'Christmas Live', LMTO at the London Palladium
2022	Orchestrator for 'The Belfast Mixtape', BBC Northern Ireland / Ulster Orchestra
2022	MD for 'Big Fish', Trinity Laban
2022	Orchestrator for Tribute to Aretha Franklin & Stevie Wonder, Trondheim Symphony Orchestra
2021	Associate MD for 'Doctor Who: Time Fracture', Immersive Everywhere
2021	Orchestrator, MD for 'Amélie', Criterion Theatre West End (2x Olivier nominations)
2021	Orchestrator, MD for Rob Houchen in Concert, Cadogan Hall
2020	MD for London Cast Album of 'Amélie' (Grammy nomination)

Positions Held

2017 - 21	Composer-in-Residence with the City Chamber Choir
2014 - 20	Arranger / Conductor, GSMD Pops Orchestra
2016-present	Music Co-ordinator, Crossway Stratford
2019 - 20	Conductor, UCL Jazz Society Big Band

Testimonials

Every time I've reached out to Sam to orchestrate a project for me he has been a joy to work with - it doesn't matter the style or the size of the orchestra, he will sensitively adapt to the needs of the project and make it sound exactly as I imagined for what I needed on each occasion.

Alfonso Casado Trigo - Conductor and Musical Director
De Broadway a Hollywood

Sam Wilson is a talented, dedicated and rigorous Musical Director who quickly wins the trust and appreciation of the performers with his supportive nature and his sense of humour. He is an excellent collaborator who always strives for what is best for the show and will always go that extra mile to achieve excellence. I would collaborate with him again in a heartbeat.

Justin Audibert - Artistic Director, Chichester Festival Theatre
The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Samuel has been an invaluable inner circle collaborator at Studio Orchestrations since 2019 for good reason. He consistently delivers top notch arrangements and orchestration work for us, with creative flair and a rarely found attention to detail. A true pro and a solid, honest human being, for whom nothing is ever any trouble.

Paul Campbell and John Langley, Studio Orchestrations

Sam is an immensely talented orchestrator, arranger and general musical hero. I always go to him for orchestration and arranging work as my first call. Whether he's conducting an orchestra, arranging jazz charts, or making top class mock ups on Logic, he always delivers on time with a musicality that takes everything to another level. Hire this man!

Barnaby Race - Composer and Music Supervisor
Amélie / The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe / Grease / Doctor Who: Time Fracture

Samuel is a truly inventive arranger and orchestrator, bringing out vivid colours and thrilling harmonies in his work. He works quickly and effectively and I'm always excited to hear a new arrangement when he sends it.

Freddie Tapner - CEO & Artistic Director, London Musical Theatre Orchestra
Christmas Live

Since working with Samuel I have increasingly been in awe of his skill. From arranging whole concerts for an orchestra that sound double the size because of the beautiful parts, to recording a song with just me for my solo projects and listening to my needs to execute the job in a brilliant way. He is one of the best Musical Directors & Arrangers in the business at the moment.

Rob Houchen - Actor and Singer
Rob Houchen in Concert / West End Does Christmas / West End Does Hollywood

I've had the chance to work with Sam a couple of times now and have loved performing his arrangements and working with him as an MD. Looking forward to doing more in the future!

John Owen-Jones - Actor and Singer

Key Skills

Arranger / Composer

As a multi-instrumentalist well-versed in many styles of music, Samuel is able to adapt clients' music to any musical style or configuration of instruments. Years of experience in theatre have given him a keen sense of theatrical structure and tone, making scene changes, vamps, underscores, medleys and musical sequences seem effortless. Working closely with different directors, choreographers and other creatives has meant developing clear and straightforward communication about what's necessary for each moment in a particular project. And a degree in composition studying with Matthew King, along with many years of improvising in various jazz ensembles has given Samuel a creative spark to write music that brings a new quality to a project. It also means he's comfortable writing new music for performances. He believes music should be fun to play, not just to hear, and aims to create music that is a joy for the musicians.

Orchestrator

Samuel formed a Pops orchestra with some colleagues whilst studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and so before even entering the professional world he'd racked up hundreds of hours of experience orchestrating music for large and medium-size orchestras. Orchestrating with very little rehearsal time in mind has meant developing a very clear sense for what is playable and effective in each given situation. A varied education and upbringing has meant he's been exposed to classical, theatre, jazz and many other scores so is able to use whatever instrumentation is available to its fullest potential. This has also included orchestrating for several actor-musician productions, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of each player and the complications of actors playing, singing and moving at once.

Conductor / MD

Having formed the aforementioned orchestra whilst studying, Samuel also developed his conducting technique through those concerts and rehearsals, in addition to studying with Tim Redmond and David Corkhill. Since graduating, he's enjoyed many conducting opportunities with orchestras and small ensembles, and worked consistently as a musical director. The latter has meant developing conducting, piano-conducting, rehearsal and coaching techniques to communicate effectively between casts, musicians and creative teams. He was nominated for an Offie award along with George Stiles and Anthony Drewe for his MD work on the London premiere of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and has enjoyed working on other musicals in the West End, off-West End and in drama schools. See above for more examples. He has also been Associate Sound Designer for several productions.

Music Preparation

Samuel believes music should be fun to play as well as to hear; and that involves producing parts and scores that are a joy to receive and fun to perform. With a full printing and binding setup in his home studio, Samuel cares about the minutiae of music preparation, from making detailed and clear parts & scores with adequate page turns and sufficient detail, to using quality paper and binding materials, and even liaising in advance with musicians to create parts that play to the strengths of the players themselves. He's prepared parts for concerts, musicals, operas and workshops. If it looks good on the stand, the players are happy; if the players are happy, they'll sound great.

Music Production/Recording & Keyboard Programming

Samuel is equally happy producing printed parts for live musicians as he is tracking and sequencing tracks from the studio. A proficient user of Logic Pro and QLab, he's able to create recorded materials for performance both in place of and in addition to live musicians. That can include recording guitars, percussion and keyboards himself, sequencing MIDI parts as well as outsourcing additional recording work to other musicians and mixing them. His experience as a theatre musician and MD means he is able to create structured click tracks that work live, and complement & support live musicians. He is also proficient at keyboard programming in Mainstage.