EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:30PM THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2012

British Composer Awards

SHORTLIST UNVEILED FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) is delighted to announce the 39 works shortlisted for the 2012 British Composer Awards. The winners in each category will be unveiled at a ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall on Monday 3 December.

Three works have been shortlisted in each of the following categories:

- Instrumental Solo or Duo
- Chamber
- Vocal
- Choral
- Wind or Brass Band
- Orchestral
- Stage Works
- Liturgical
- Contemporary Jazz Composition
- Community or Educational Project
- Making Music Award
- Sonic Art
- International Award

British Composer Awards Chairman, Sarah Rodgers, said, *"In the year in which BASCA presents the British Composer Awards for the 10th consecutive occasion, it is a delight to announce a Shortlist which so clearly demonstrates the range, reach and richness of contemporary composition in the UK today. We are proud to take the lead in celebrating Britain's many talented composers."*

This year over 300 works were submitted, but only one composer – Sir Harrison Birtwistle - has works shortlisted in more than one category: Vocal and Orchestral. Birtwistle's works have appeared on previous shortlists in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2009 when he was nominated 3 times. In 2005, both *The Ring of the Nazarene* (Choral) and *Night's Black Bird* (Orchestral) won in their respective categories. Birtwistle's *Crowd* which won the Instrumental Solo or Duo Award in 2007 will be performed at the British Composer Awards 10th Anniversary Concert presented by BASCA in the Purcell Room on 5 December.

Not surprisingly, the categories that have the greatest number of new nominees are: Contemporary Jazz; Community or Educational Project; Making Music; and Sonic Art. Timothy Salter in the Instrumental Solo or Duo category, and Matthew Herbert and Ray Lee (Sonic Art) have shortlisted works for the first time this year. In Contemporary Jazz Composition, all three short-listed works are from first-time nominees.

Guy Fletcher, Chairman of PRS said, *"The nominees for this year's British Composer Awards underpin the wealth and breadth of contemporary classical and jazz talent we have in the UK. In a year that our music has shone brightly on the world stage we have much to celebrate and I'm proud that PRS for Music will again sponsor these prestigious awards, recognising outstanding talent."*

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Other new names to the shortlist are Rebecca Saunders whose *Still* has been nominated in the Orchestral category, and Austrian composer Thomas Larcher, whose Double Concerto for violin, cello and orchestra was premièred at the 2011 BBC Proms by Viktoria Mullova and Matthew Barley. Thomas Larcher is nominated alongside Brett Dean and Kaija Saariaho for the International Award.

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3 & Director, BBC Proms said, *"This year BBC Radio 3 has included a series of major broadcast events, from the London Jazz Festival, through Huddersfield and on to our own Schubert celebration, the Proms and the Piano Season. It's clear that there is no area of our output that is not touched and made the more vibrant by the presence of new works, often commissioned by Radio 3 specially for the occasion from a wide range of composers. We're proud of the new works we are privileged to commission each year and are delighted to continue to support the celebration of new work at the British Composer Awards through our association with BASCA"*

The British Composer Awards celebrate the music of composers living and working in the UK, as well as UK premières of works by composers outside the UK. In order to qualify, the shortlisted work must have been completed within the five years prior to March 2012 and received a public performance – either live or broadcast – in the year leading up to March 2012. With the exception of the International Award, shortlisted composers must be born in the UK or resident for at least 5 years. The final judging is made by specially appointed juries selected by BASCA, with a different panel for each category. More than 70 music professionals are involved, the majority of whom are composers working in collaboration with performers, conductors, promoters and festival directors.

2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the British Composer Awards, a BASCA initiative launched in 2003 by its current chairman, Sarah Rodgers. BASCA is the professional association for music writers of all genres in the UK, and the Awards exist to promote the art of composition, to recognise the creative talent of composers who live and work in the UK and to bring contemporary music to a wider audience. With membership approaching 2,000, BASCA is the single voice for British music creators.

On Wednesday 5 December, two days after the 10th Anniversary Awards Ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall, BASCA will present a concert at the Southbank Centre featuring 11 choral and chamber works that have won British Composer Awards in the past 10 years. Earliest of the Award winners is Gabriel Jackson's *O Doctor Optime* (Liturgical Award 2003), and most recent is Anthony Payne's *String Quartet No. 2* which won last year's Chamber Award. The works will be performed by the combined forces of the chamber group, Endymion, and chamber choir, The Vasari Singers.

The British Composer Awards are presented by BASCA and sponsored by PRS for Music in association with BBC Radio 3 who once again will provide exclusive broadcast coverage of the Awards on Sunday 9 December.

www.britishcomposerawards.com

Saturday 1 December	BBC Radio 3, *Hear and Now,* 11pm
Monday 3 December	British Composer Awards, Goldsmiths' Hall
Wednesday 5 December	10th Anniversary Concert, Purcell Room at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm
Sunday 9 December	BBC Radio 3 Sunday Concert featuring the 2012 British Composer Awards, 2pm

For further information:
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2012 BRITISH COMPOSER AWARDS SHORTLIST

CATEGORY	COMPOSER	SHORTLISTED WORK
Instrumental Solo or Duo	Rory Boyle	Burble
	Christian Mason	Learning Self-Modulation
	Timothy Salter	Three Intermezzi
Chamber	Thomas Adès	The Four Quarters
	Ian Gardiner	spinning and weaving
	Raymond Yiu	Les Etoiles au Front
Vocal	Sir Harrison Birtwistle	Angel Fighter
	Joe Cutler	Chanticleer and the Opera Fox
	Colin Matthews	No Man's Land
Choral	John Casken	The Knight's Stone
	Jonathan Dove	Two Sonnets
	Gabriel Jackson	Airplane Cantata
Wind Band or Brass Band	Simon Dobson	A Symphony of Colours
	Kenneth Hesketh	Danceries (Set II)
	Andy Scott	Spirit of Mingus
Orchestral	Julian Anderson	The Discovery of Heaven
	Sir Harrison Birtwistle	Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
	Rebecca Saunders	Still
Stage Works	Gavin Higgins	What Wild Ecstasy
	James MacMillan	Clemency
	Jocelyn Pook	DESH
Liturgical	Francis Grier	Missa Brevis
	Jonathan Harvey	The Annunciation
	Cecilia McDowall	The Lord is Good
Sonic Art	Matthew Herbert	One Pig
	Ray Lee	The Ethometric Museum
	Patrick Nunn	Pareidolia I
Contemporary Jazz Composition	Laura Jurd	Giant's Causeway
	Alex Roth	The Charm of Impossibilities
	Christine Tobin	Sailing to Byzantium
Community or Educational Project	Kerry Andrew	A Lock Is A Gate
	John Barber	We Are Shadows
	Paul Rissmann	The Chimpanzees of Happytown
Making Music Award	Emily Howard	Mesmerism for Piano and Chamber Orchestra
	Christopher Hussey	Dreamtide
	Matthew Taylor	Storr
International Award	Brett Dean	Fire Music
	Thomas Larcher	Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra
	Kaija Saariaho	Leino Songs

ABOUT BASCA

BASCA, the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, is the professional association for music writers of all genres in the UK. With membership approaching 2,000, it is the single voice for British music creators.

BASCA works to foster a sense of community amongst songwriters, lyricists and composers, and to campaign on their behalf in the domestic, European and international political arenas. As the only association in the country made up entirely of music writers, the organisation has an unparalleled insight into the issues affecting music creators in the UK today. We work closely with our members, keeping them informed in a constantly changing environment via our publications, websites, seminars and professional networking events. BASCA also presents the Ivor Novello Awards, British Composer Awards and Gold Badge Awards annually.

Membership of BASCA is open to working songwriters who are members of a royalty collection society, such as PRS for Music, BMI or ASCAP.

Academy Fellows: John Adams, David Arnold, Malcolm Arnold, John Barry, Don Black, Pierre Boulez, John Dankworth, David Ferguson, George Fenton, Elton John, Barry Gibb, Maurice Gibb, Robin Gibb, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Paul McCartney, Peter Maxwell Davies and Tim Rice.
www.basca.org.uk

PRS FOR MUSIC

PRS for Music represents the rights of 90,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers in the UK. As a not-for-profit organisation it ensures creators are paid whenever their music is played, performed or reproduced; championing the importance of copyright to protect and support the UK music industry. The UK has a proud tradition of creating wonderful music that is enjoyed the world over and PRS for Music has been supporting the creators of that music since 1914.

PRS for Music provides business and community groups with easy access to over 10m songs through its music licences. In an industry worth £3.8bn PRS for Music is uniquely placed to be a voice for music and music creators. Collecting £630.8m in 2011 PRS for Music is one of the world's most efficient combined rights organisations. With 150 representation agreements in place globally, PRS for Music's network represents over 2 million music creators.
www.prsformusic.com
www.m-magazine.co.uk

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BBC Radio 3 is the home of classical music. The station also broadcasts a wide range of cultural programming including jazz, world music, arts and over 30 new drama programmes a year. BBC Radio 3 features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms, broadcasting every Prom live and over 600 complete concerts a year. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent, composers, writers and new young performers through schemes such as World Routes Academy, New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers.
www.bbc.co.uk/radio3