



BRITISH
COMPOSER
AWARDS

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2013

British Composer Awards Shortlist unveiled for the 11th Year of the Awards

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) is delighted to announce the 39 works shortlisted for the 2013 British Composer Awards. The winners in each of the 13 categories will be unveiled at a ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall on Tuesday 3 December.

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

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

British Composer Awards Chairman, Sarah Rodgers, said, "*The British Composer Awards have passed their tenth birthday and there is every sign that the next ten years will be as rich and rewarding as the first. BASCA is delighted to continue its successful association with PRS for Music and BBC Radio 3 and deeply committed to serving Britain's composers by providing this annual platform for the celebration of new classical and jazz music.*"

The **British Composer Awards (BCA)** are unique around the world in making contemporary classical and jazz music the focus of their annual celebration. Created by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (**BASCA**) in 2003, the Awards seek to promote the art of composition, to recognise the creative talent of composers who live and work in the UK and to bring contemporary classical and jazz music to a wider audience.

The BCA celebrate the music of today's composers living and working in the United Kingdom and also UK premieres of work by composers from outside the UK. Qualifying works must have been completed within the five years prior to 31 March 2013 and received a public performance - either live or broadcast - in the year leading up to 31 March 2013.

With the exception of the International Award, shortlisted composers must be born in the UK or resident for at least 5 years. Each category is judged by a different jury, with members appointed by BASCA and more than 70 music professionals are involved, the majority of whom are composers working in collaboration with performers, conductors, promoters and festival directors.

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This year over 300 works were submitted by over 200 composers and, no doubt reflecting the diversity of modern British composition, the shortlist of 39 is the work of 38 different composers, with only Gabriel Jackson shortlisted in more than one category. Jackson's works have appeared on many previous shortlists and he won the Choral category in 2009 (for *The Spacious Firmament*) and 2012 (for *Airplane Cantata*). His *Choral Symphony* (Choral) is a celebration of London and explores all sides of this city, from the Grandiose architecture, the bustling life of Fleet Street, to the darker aspects of today's poorer neighbourhoods.

Three works in the shortlist were written for the Cultural Olympiad: Stephen McNeff's *The Chalk Legend* (Making Music), a large scale multi-media event inspired by the discovery of a Viking grave in Weymouth; James Redwood's *Pass The Torch, An Olympic Symphony* (Community or Educational Project), a work for 3 Youth Orchestras, Orchestra, Rock Band, Saz Ensemble, Steel Band and massed primary school choirs, and Oliver Searle's *Technophonia* (Community or Educational Project). Searle's work uses three new cutting-edge technologies (the Brainfingers system, Soundbeam and Skoog) that enabled disabled musicians to perform music on an equal footing with their peers.

Guy Fletcher, Chair of PRS for Music, said: "*The nominees for this year's British Composer Awards truly showcase the magnificent contemporary classical and jazz talent we have in the UK. As British compositions continue to play a crucial role in underpinning and influencing the creative industries I'm proud that PRS for Music will again sponsor these prestigious awards, recognising exceptional talent.*"

This year's shortlist spans a wide age range from those in their twenties to those in their seventies. Some of the younger composers include Benjamin Wallfisch, Edward Nesbit, Joseph Phibbs and Raymond Yiu. Yiu's work in the Orchestral category, *The London Citizen Exceedingly Injured*, is his first major orchestral composition.

Sadly, two nominated composers works were submitted posthumously: Jonathan Harvey and Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. Jonathan Harvey's *Cirrus Light* (Instrumental Solo or Duo) was one of his last compositions. He wrote the work from a wheelchair while suffering from Motor Neurone disease, inspired by the changing colours of cirrus clouds in a summer sky.

Perhaps surprisingly, this is the first time Sir Richard Rodney Bennett has been nominated. His *A Colloquy with God* (Choral) is the last work he composed, and is quite different compared to his other choral works. It is a poignant setting of a very moving poem by Sir Thomas Browne for four male voices and was dedicated to the vocal chamber ensemble 'New York Polyphony'.

Other new names to the shortlist include David Bruce, nominated in the Stage Works category for his chamber opera *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* based on a book by Phillip Pullman, and Benjamin Wallfisch, nominated in the Chamber category for *Chopin's Waterloo*, a work inspired by the artworks of French-American painter and sculptor Arman.

The categories that have the greatest number of new nominees are Contemporary Jazz, Wind/Brass Band and Sonic Art. In Sonic Art, all three shortlisted works are from first-time nominees including Ed Baxter and Chris Weaver with *No Such Object (Speed of Light)*, a mass-participatory public artwork combining movement, light, sound and landscape. New nominees in Contemporary Jazz are Trish Clowes, Radio 3's New Generation Jazz Artist 2012-14, and the first woman to be given the role, and Tim Garland with his *Songs to the North Sky*, a work inspired by the big skylines of the North East.

Some of the composers share the shortlist with their own teachers this year: Edward Nesbit, one of the youngest composers on the list, is nominated for *A Pretence of Wit* (Vocal), while his teacher George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* is on the list in the Stage Works category. And Richard Bullen and his teacher David Sawer are nominated in the Community or Educational Project and Vocal categories respectively.

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3 & Director, BBC Proms said, *“As the home of classical music and the most significant commissioner of new music, BBC Radio 3 is once again delighted to be working with BASCA to support new talent and new work. We’ll be broadcasting these important awards to our millions of listeners in the UK and worldwide in a time that I believe is a golden age of composition. It’s heartening to see such a broad range of talent covered by these awards this year and I wish all of those on the shortlist the best of luck on December 3rd.”*

The 11th British Composer Awards will take place on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at Goldsmiths' Hall, London. The event will include a performance of the winning work in the 2013 Student Competition.

The British Composer Awards are presented by BASCA and sponsored by *PRS for Music*. In association with BBC Radio 3 providing exclusive broadcast coverage of the Awards on Saturday 7 December.

www.britishcomposersawards.com

Thursday 24 October	BBC Radio 3, In Tune, 4.30pm - shortlist announcement
25-29 November	BBC Radio 3, Live in Concert Series - preview of BCA shortlisted works
Tuesday 3 December	British Composer Awards, Goldsmiths Hall, 5.30pm
Saturday 7 December	BBC Radio 3, Hear and Now, 10.45pm

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2013 British Composer Awards Shortlist

Instrumental Solo or Duo

Cirrus Light by Jonathan Harvey
Darkness Visible by George Nicholson
Gigue Machine by Harrison Birtwistle

Chamber

Chopin's Waterloo by Benjamin Wallfisch
Fletch by Rebecca Saunders
String Quartet No. 4 by Colin Matthews

Vocal

A Pretence of Wit by Edward Nesbit
Electra Mourns by Brian Elias
Flesh and Blood by David Sawer

Choral

A Colloquy with God by Richard Rodney Bennett
Choral Symphony by Gabriel Jackson
Since it was the Day of Preparation... by James MacMillan

Wind Band or Brass Band

Diversions After Benjamin Britten: Four Centenary Tributes for Brass Band by Simon Dobson, Gavin Higgins, Paul McGhee, Lucy Pankhurst
Mysteries of the Horizon by Nigel Clarke
Symphony in two movements by Edward Gregson

Orchestral

Rivers to the Sea by Joseph Phibbs
Tenebrae by John Pickard
The London Citizen Exceedingly Injured by Raymond Yiu

Stage Works

Imago by Orlando Gough
The Firework-Maker's Daughter by David Bruce
Written on Skin by George Benjamin

Liturgical

Cantate Domino by Gabriel Jackson
I saw the Lord by Matthew Martin
O Oriens by Cecilia McDowall

Sonic Art

5 Minute Oscillations of the Sun by Caroline Devine
Dart by Tom Williams
No Such Object (Speed of Light) by Ed Baxter and Chris Weaver

Contemporary Jazz Composition

Iris Nonet by Trish Clowes
Lifelines by John Surman
Songs To The North Sky by Tim Garland

Community or Educational Project

Elemental Songs and Dances by Richard Bullen
Pass the Torch, An Olympic Symphony by James Redwood
Technophonia by Oliver Searle

Making Music Award

Dry Stone Walls of Yorkshire by Peter McGarr
Screech by Kerry Andrew
The Chalk Legend by Stephen McNeff

International Award

Symphony No. 8 by Per Nørgård
The Importance of Being Earnest by Gerald Barry
Woven Dreams by Toshio Hosokawa

About BASCA

BASCA, the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, is the professional association for music writers in the UK. 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 and composers who are members of a royalty collection society, such as *PRS for Music*, BMI or ASCAP.

BASCA 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

About Our Sponsor - PRS for Music

PRS for Music represents the rights of 100,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers in the UK. As a membership 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 £641.8m in 2012, *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

About BBC Radio 3

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 25 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 New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers.

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