



BRITISH
COMPOSER
AWARDS

Embargoed until 7.30pm 3 December 2013

British Composer Awards 2013

9 NEW WINNERS REVEALED AT THE BRITISH COMPOSER AWARDS 2013 AS BIRTWISTLE GATHERS HIS FIFTH AWARD AND BECOMES THE MOST SHORTLISTED AND WINNING COMPOSER IN BCA HISTORY

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) tonight announced the winners in 13 categories of the 2013 British Composer Awards in a ceremony at London's Goldsmiths' Hall. Of the 13 categories, nine were awarded to new winners.

Six of the winners are completely new to the British Composer Awards, having never even been on the shortlist before this year: **Nigel Clarke, Matthew Martin, Ed Baxter/Chris Weaver, Peter McGarr and Toshio Hosokawa.**

Nigel Clarke's Cornet Concerto, *Mysteries of the Horizon* was the winner of the Wind Band or Brass Band category and is a spellbinding work based upon four paintings by the Belgian artist René Magritte. Matthew Martin's innovative *I Saw the Lord*, written for Daniel Cook and St David's Cathedral Choir won the Liturgical category while Ed Baxter and Chris Weaver's *No Such Object*, a major sound art work performed using bespoke hand made electrical equipment that premiered in August 2012 at Arthur's Seat, won the Sonic Art category.

Peter McGarr's *Dry Stone Walls of Yorkshire*, written for CoMA London Ensemble won the Making Music Award and Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa received the International Award for his orchestral work *Woven Dreams*.

British Composer Awards Committee Chairman, Sarah Rodgers, said: "One of the achievements BASCA is particularly proud of is that the British Composers Awards, year on year, brings to light rising composers and supports them in taking the next step in their careers. The broadcast and other media exposure we are able to offer, together with commissions and collaborations, all contribute to helping a composer and their work become more widely recognised."

Sir Harrison Birtwistle, who won his fifth British Composer Award for *Gigue Machine* in the Instrumental Solo or Duo category, became the most shortlisted and winning composer in BCA history. Birtwistle's previous awards include both the Orchestral and Choral awards in 2005, the Instrumental Solo or Duo award for *Crowd* in 2007 and the Orchestral category in 2012 for *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*. *Gigue Machine*, for solo piano, was written for Nicolas Hodges and is a remarkably complex, virtuosic work described by Birtwistle as "mimicking a fantasia in two parts", one resonant, the other staccato.

Joseph Phibbs, George Benjamin, John Surman and James Redwood, are all first-time winners although each has received previous nominations. Phibbs' *Rivers to the Sea*, commissioned for the 18th birthday celebrations of The Anvil, Basingstoke, won the Orchestral category while George Benjamin's *Written on Skin*, which played to sold-out audiences and admiring notices at the Royal Opera House in March this year, won the Stage Works category. John Surman's *Lifelines*, a groundbreaking work marrying contemporary jazz with the traditional male voice choir was the winner of the Contemporary Jazz Composition category while James Redwood's massive work for 250 young musicians from six diverse ensembles *Pass The Torch, An Olympic Symphony*, received the Community or Educational Project Award.

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Guy Fletcher, Chairman of PRS for Music, said: "Tonight's new generation of British composers has been truly impressive and I am excited to see such breadth of talent and creativity on the winners' shortlist. The British Composer Awards provide a vital showcase for music that is part of our cultural fabric and enjoyed the world over. PRS for Music is proud to sponsor such an important event."

Colin Matthews, James MacMillan and Brian Elias all received Awards for the second time. Matthews, who won the Vocal category in 2012 for *No Man's Land* this year took the Chamber Award with his String Quartet No. 4, written for the Elias String Quartet. James MacMillan's *Since it was the day of Preparation...*, for bass, chorus and ensemble which tells the story of the Resurrection was the winner in the Choral category while Brian Elias received the Vocal Award for *Electra Mourns*, a work for mezzo soprano, solo cor anglais and String Orchestra that premiered at the Proms in 2012.

The Awards ceremony opened with a performance of Rodrigo Barbosa Camacho's work, *American Candy - What the hell is Yellow no. 6?!?* for viola - winner of the 4th Student Competition at the British Composer Awards - performed by Sarah-Jane Bradley.

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3 & Director, BBC Proms said, "Congratulations to all the winners of this year's 2013 BCA awards. As the home of classical music, and one of the most significant commissioners of new music, BBC Radio 3 is delighted once again to cover this important event for our millions of listeners."

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.britishcomposerawards.com

Saturday 7 December

**BBC Radio 3 Hear and Now, 10.45pm
Features the 2013 British Composer Awards**

For further information please contact:

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2013 British Composer Awards - Winners List

Instrumental Solo or Duo

Gigue Machine by Harrison Birtwistle

Chamber

String Quartet No.4 by Colin Matthews

Vocal

Electra Mourns by Brian Elias

Choral

Since it was the day of Preparation... by James MacMillan

Wind Band or Brass Band

Mysteries of the Horizon by Nigel Clarke

Orchestral

Rivers to the Sea by Joseph Phibbs

Stage Works

Written on Skin by George Benjamin

Liturgical

I Saw the Lord by Matthew Martin

Sonic Art

No Such Object (Speed of Light) by Ed Baxter and Chris Weaver

Contemporary Jazz Composition

Lifelines by John Surman

Community or Educational Project

Pass the Torch, An Olympic Symphony by James Redwood

Making Music Award

Dry Stone Walls of Yorkshire by Peter McGarr

International Award

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

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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.

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