



EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30PM MONDAY 3 DECEMBER 2012

British Composer Awards 2012

9 NEW WINNERS REVEALED FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS AS
BIRTWISTLE GATHERS HIS FOURTH AWARD

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) today announced the winners in 13 categories of the 2012 British Composer Awards. Of the 13 categories, nine have been awarded to new winners.

4 of the winners are completely new to the British Composer Awards: Ray Lee, Christine Tobin, Paul Rissmann and Thomas Larcher, winners in the categories of Sonic Art, Contemporary Jazz Composition, Community or Educational Project, and the International Award respectively.

Christian Mason, Colin Matthews, Simon Dobson, Francis Grier, and Emily Howard, winners in Instrumental Solo or Duo, Vocal, Wind Band or Brass Band, Liturgical, and the Making Music Award respectively, are first-time winners although each has received previous nominations; whereas both Thomas Adès and Jocelyn Pook received Awards for the second time, and Gabriel Jackson's Airplane Cantata gained him his second Award in the Choral category and his third win overall.

Sarah Rodgers, Chairman of BASCA and the British Composer Awards, said, "This has been a great year for British composers and BASCA is immensely proud to celebrate their success at the British Composer Awards. The 10th anniversary Awards have presented an authentic reflection of the new and the established, across a spectrum of language and invention which affirms the high reputation of contemporary classical composition in the UK."

Topping the charts is Sir Harrison Birtwistle who wins his fourth British Composer Award. Birtwistle, shortlisted this year in two categories: Orchestral and Vocal, won his fourth British Composer Award when he was presented with the Orchestral Award for his Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Ruth Mackenzie OBE, on behalf of BASCA. Birtwistle's previous awards include both the Orchestral and Choral awards in 2005 and the Instrumental Solo or Duo award for Crowd in 2007. Crowd will be performed by Helen Tunstall, harpist with the Endymion Ensemble, as part of the British Composer Awards 10th Anniversary Concert at the Purcell Room on Wednesday 5 December.

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.

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3 and Director, BBC Proms writes: "It's encouraging to think that for ten years now, Radio 3 and BASCA have collaborated on these awards, presenting a snapshot of musical creativity in the UK. We offer our congratulations to the winners this year. However, behind every award is a string of other deserving nominations and runners-up, proving that composers here are busy as ever across a whole range of genres. Radio 3 is delighted to be able to shine a light on this important area of our cultural life, not only broadcasting coverage of this event but working with composers throughout the year to bring new works to wider audiences."

Guy Fletcher OBE, PRS Chairman says "It is an enormous privilege to be supporting the tenth anniversary of the British Composer Awards. We strongly identify with classical music in this country, having produced so many prolific and much loved composers. It has been an important and iconic year for our music on the world stage and this is reflected in the strength of contemporary entries at the awards. It is a joy to see so many new and established composers producing outstanding work."

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The full list of winning compositions is outlined below:

CATEGORY	COMPOSER	TITLE OF WORK
Instrumental Solo or Duo	Christian Mason	Learning Self-Modulation
Chamber	Thomas Adès	The Four Quarters
Vocal	Colin Matthews	No Man's Land
Choral	Gabriel Jackson	Airplane Cantata
Wind Band or Brass Band	Simon Dobson	A Symphony of Colours
Orchestral	Sir Harrison Birtwistle	Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
Stage Works	Jocelyn Pook	DESH
Liturgical	Francis Grier	Missa Brevis
Sonic Art	Ray Lee	The Ethometric Museum
Contemporary Jazz Composition	Christine Tobin	Sailing to Byzantium
Community or Educational Project	Paul Rissmann	The Chimpanzees of Happytown
Making Music Award	Emily Howard	Mesmerism for Piano and Chamber Orchestra
International Award	Thomas Larcher	Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra

The Awards were presented at a ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall which opened with a performance of Gareth Moorcraft's Rondo? - winner of the third Student Competition at the British Composer Awards - performed by members of Endymion.

www.britishcomposerawards.com

Wednesday 5 December 10th Anniversary Concert
Purcell Room, 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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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

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 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 the World Routes Academy, New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio3