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British Composer Awards 2016 Shortlist Unveiled

- *More Women Nominated than Ever Before & Fifth of Nominees Born Overseas*
 - *21st Century Composers Increasingly Inspired by Science and Technology*
 - *New for 2016: Anonymous Judging, and Gift of BASCA Awards*

Thirty-four composers have been shortlisted for this year's British Composer Awards, spanning 33 works across 11 categories, it was revealed today.

The 2016 shortlist highlights the diversity and vibrancy of the UK's music community, with 20 per cent of composers born overseas, 38 per cent of nominees being women – the highest numbers in the Awards' history – and 50 per cent of the shortlist being first time nominees.

The shortlist reveals that today's leading composers are increasingly taking inspiration from science, engaging with technology, and blurring artistic boundaries.

Crispin Hunt, Chairman at BASCA, said: *"This year BASCA introduced a number of changes to the submissions and judging process to ensure the British Composer Awards are representative of the wealth and diversity of talent here in the UK. The resulting shortlist announced today is a great snapshot of the creative expression that is contemporary classical, jazz and sonic art. Add to this our two new awards, the recipients of which will be announced at the ceremony, and the 2016 British Composer Awards promises to be a great night. Congratulations to everyone shortlisted today."*

Celebrating the art of composition and showcasing the creative talent of contemporary composers and sound artists, 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.

Composers taking inspiration from science and technology include: **Eduardo Reck Miranda**, whose piece 'Activating Memory' used a Brain-Computer Music Interface instrument – Miranda's own invention – to enable motor-impaired participants to compose music by detecting electrical brain signals; **Emily Howard**, whose Small Chamber shortlisted work, 'Afference' explores the neural workings of the brain; and **Fumiko Miyachi**, whose 'Au79' is part of a series of works inspired by the periodic table.

Meanwhile, shortlisted composers blurring the boundaries between music and other art forms include: **Jennifer Walshe** and **Brian Irvine** whose piece '13 Vices' dissolves the boundaries between music, performance and poetry; **Hanna Tuulikki**, whose 'SING SIGN: a close duet' weaves together spoken word, British Sign Language and architecture; and **Sorana Santos**, whose 'Our Lady of Stars | Book of Hours' explores the relationship between the written and audible languages of music and literature.

For the full shortlist by category see below.

Julia Haferkorn and Ed McKeon, Artistic Directors of the British Composer Awards for the past three years, commented:

Julia Haferkorn: *“In these uncertain times the continually high quality of work by composers living in Britain is reassuring, while its diversity is truly uplifting. Inspiration comes from a wide range of sources – from brain signals to Victorian handkerchief thieves, and from London’s topographical features to mythical women. It is particularly pleasing to see that the shortlist features 50% of first time nominees, an indication that the British Composer Awards are reaching an ever widening pool of talent.”*

Ed McKeon: *“The shortlist reflects just how much the richer our musical life is for the international musicians and artists who have settled here and who come here to study and to explore a rich global culture. In the process, music has become less tribal and more playful, and the same goes for audiences. It’s a great time to be listening to new music in the UK.”*

Shortlisted composers born overseas include: Jennifer Walshe (Ireland); Eduardo Reck Miranda (Brazil); Alex Nikiporenko (Russia); Claudia Molitor (Germany); David Bruce (USA); Fumiko Miyachi (Japan); & Shri Sriram (India).

Guy Fletcher, Chairman at PRS for Music, said: *“Once again we have an outstanding shortlist of innovative composers whose works have been submitted for the British Composer Awards 2016. We at PRS for Music congratulate BASCA for continuing to champion the diversity, originality and excellence of our contemporary composer community and are delighted to continue sponsoring this wonderful event.”*

For the first time, this year entries were judged anonymously for all categories apart from Community or Educational Project, Sonic Art and Stage Works – where the presence of the composer is often integral to the performance itself – and works could be submitted by the composers themselves. In addition, the British Composer Awards will be launching two new Gift of BASCA awards this year: the British Composer Award for Innovation and the British Composer Award for Inspiration, with each category recognising the entire body of work of a composer to date.

Alan Davey, Controller at BBC Radio 3, BBC Proms and BBC Performing Groups, commented: *“Since BBC Radio 3 began broadcasting, as the Third Programme, 70 years ago, the station has always sought to champion new works and composer talent. We’re really pleased to be able to connect our millions of listeners to all the new work that is championed within the British Composer Awards. It’s a treasure trove of discovery and it’s encouraging to see the evolving diversity and continuing excellence of the Awards, with more female composers, as we work together as an industry to address diversity in classical composition. Congratulations and good luck to all who are shortlisted.”*

BBC Radio 3 will broadcast exclusive coverage of the Awards on *Hear and Now* on Saturday 10 December.

The winners in each category will be announced at the British Film Institute (BFI) on Tuesday 6 December 2016.

2016 British Composer Awards Shortlist:

Amateur or Young Performers

I am, I say by Kate Whitley

In Sea-Cold Lyonesse by John Pickard

The Monster in the Maze by Jonathan Dove

Chamber Ensemble

13 Vices by Brian Irvine and Jennifer Walshe

Chamber Symphony No. 2 ‘The Australian’ by Laurence Crane

Freezywater by Leo Chadburn

Choral

Ave Verum Corpus Re-Imagined by Roderick Williams

Noli Pater by James MacMillan

When Time is Broke by Cecilia McDowall

Community or Educational Project

Activating Memory by Eduardo Reck Miranda

Brass Roots; Musical Wings by Lucy Pankhurst

Into the Light by John Webb

Contemporary Jazz Composition

Karembou's Guide to the Complete Defensive Midfielder by Joe Cutler

Our Lady of Stars | Book of Hours by Sorana Santos

With One Voice by Mark Lockheart

Orchestral

Alba by Rebecca Saunders

Instability by Luke Bedford

Smatter Hauler by Anna Meredith

Small Chamber

A Day at the Spa by Oliver Leith

Afference by Emily Howard

Modus Triplex by Alex Nikiporenko

Solo or Duo

Ampelos by Martin Iddon

Five Memos by Mark Bowden

Misplaced Time Refound by Richard Whalley

Sonic Art

SING SIGN: a close duet by Hanna Tuulikki

Sonorama by Claudia Molitor

Tree Radio by Magz Hall

Stage Works

Between Worlds by Tansy Davies

Nothing by David Bruce

The Cure by Harrison Birtwistle

Wind Band or Brass Band

A Richer Dust by Nigel Clarke

Au79 by Fumiko Miyachi

Just a Vibration by Shri Sriram

For more information on this year's British Composer Awards visit www.britishcomposerawards.com or follow @ComposerAwards.

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High-res images, and biographies of the nominees are available upon request

About BASCA

BASCA is the voice for music writers; the independent professional association representing music writers in all genres, from songwriting, through to media, contemporary classical and jazz and can trace our history back over 70 years. Whilst we are well known for putting on the British Composer Awards, the Gold Badge Awards and The Ivors every year, there is far more to us than these events.

BASCA campaigns in the UK, Europe and throughout the world in order to protect the professional interests of our members. We count on the best songwriting and composing talent in order to do this important work and are

entirely self-funding, relying on the continuing support of our members, who include Paul McCartney, Dizzee Rascal, Michael Nyman, Gary Barlow, David Arnold, Elton John, Imogen Heap, Howard Goodall, John Powell, Kate Bush, Chris Martin, and many more.

About PRS for Music

PRS for Music represents the rights of over 118,000 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 over £4.1bn *PRS for Music* is uniquely placed to be a voice for music and music creators. Collecting £537.4m in 2015, *PRS for Music* is one of the world's most efficient combined rights organisations. With over 100 representation agreements in place globally, *PRS for Music's* network represents over two million music creators.

About BBC Radio 3

Since it launched in 1946, the Third Programme/ BBC Radio 3 has been a bold pioneer in the cultural world. It is one of the world's foremost presenters, creators, commissioners and curators across classical, folk, world, jazz and contemporary music as well as drama, philosophy and ideas. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new and contemporary music in the UK, with 35 new works commissioned annually and broadcasts over 600 concerts a year, including live broadcasts from the greatest classical music festival in the world (BBC Proms). Radio 3's In Concert programme alone reaches the equivalent of 250 packed concert halls a week, and the BBC Performing Groups give around 400 concerts a year in over 60 UK locations. The station has always nurtured extraordinary artistic talents, provided a platform for important scientific and political debates/announcements, and broadcast ground-breaking experimental drama – always while delivering its core aim of connecting audiences with pioneering music and culture.

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