

The Ivors Academy reveal 53 works nominated across 11 categories for The Ivors Composer Awards 2020

Many nominated works tackle the turbulence of our times as composers address issues around climate change, Brexit, the Windrush Generation, universal suffrage, bird conservation, nuclear proliferation, and homophobia in Northern Ireland

Winners revealed in an exclusive live ceremony broadcast on
BBC Radio 3 on 1 December

IVORS THE COMPOSER AWARDS

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#TheIvorsComposerAwards

- **53 works have been nominated across eleven categories following 25% increase in entries**
- **Over 50% of works are by first-time nominees**
- **Anonymous judging process has resulted in nominated works by both established and emerging composers of all ages**
- **Eleven composers will win an Ivor Novello Award**
- **BBC Radio 3 to host the awards ceremony as an exclusive broadcast only event presented by Kate Molleson and Tom Service on 1 December from 7.30pm**

The Ivors Academy today [3 November] announce the nominations for The Ivors Composer Awards 2020, celebrating the best new works by composers writing for classical, jazz and sound art. The winners of these prestigious Ivor Novello Awards will be revealed on 1 December as part of a two-hour ceremony broadcast exclusively on BBC Radio 3.

This year's nominated works demonstrate the wide diversity of settings, styles and themes of contemporary music being composed in the UK. The theme of protest is seen throughout a number of this year's nominated works, exploring topics such as climate change (Rachel Portman's *Earth Song* set to words by Greta Thunberg), the fight for universal suffrage (Emily Howard's *The Anvil*), the homophobic rhetoric of the DUP in Northern Ireland (Conor Mitchell's *Abomination, a DUP opera*), the Windrush Generation (Renell Shaw's *The Vision They Had*), Brexit (Alex Hitchcock's *Calvados*), bird conservation (Kathy Hinde's *Twittering Machines*) and nuclear proliferation (Caroline Devine's *On Common Ground*).

Now in their 18th year, The Ivors Composer Awards (formerly British Composer Awards) have nominated 53 works across eleven categories with over 50% by first-time nominees. Each category includes a broad range of talent representing both established and emerging composers of all ages. This year's nominations include composers such as Sally Beamish, Harrison Birtwistle, Anne Dudley, Jonny Greenwood, Rachel Portman, Gabriel Prokofiev, Judith Weir and Ryan Wigglesworth.

Peer recognition is at the centre of this unique annual celebration. Each of the eleven categories had a separate judging panel of composers and music practitioners who anonymously reviewed all works entered for consideration. The identity (name, gender, age, demographic) of the work's composer was removed from all materials given to the jury. All of the nominated works received a UK premiere between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 and were composed by a UK born or ordinarily resident composer.

The list of nominated works also highlight the importance and breadth of commissioning in new music. Seven of the nominated works were commissioned or co-commissioned by the BBC, and four works are associated with the PRS Foundation New Music Biennial 2019. Other commissioners include leading UK performers from Britten Sinfonia, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, LSO, Nash Ensemble, London Sinfonietta and The Belfast Ensemble to Birmingham Royal Ballet, Music Theatre Wales, Choir of St John's College Cambridge and venues such as Wigmore Hall.

In addition to the eleven categories, three Gift of the Academy Awards will be presented as part of the BBC Radio 3 broadcast on 1 December. These will include an Academy Fellowship, the highest honour bestowed by The Ivors Academy, the Innovation Award and the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Works Collection.

The Ivors Composer Awards are sponsored by *PRS for Music*. The awards presentation is in association with BBC Radio 3 providing exclusive broadcast coverage.

Gary Carpenter, Chair of **The Ivors Academy's** Awards Committee, said: *"The works nominated for this year's Composer Awards perfectly illustrate how contemporary classical, jazz and sound arts respond to the world around us and shape our understanding of the contradictions, uncertainties and hopes that create the fabric of our lives. On behalf of music creators and The Ivors Academy I would like to congratulate all nominees on their achievement. As our world feels increasingly uncertain, we must treasure what makes life so wonderful – music, inspiration and escape."*

Andrea C. Martin, CEO of **PRS for Music**, said: *"We are proud to continue our support of The Ivors Composer Awards. Without question, this year has been incredibly difficult for our industry. While the classical community has faced its own unique challenges in recent months, the vitality of your compositions has remained a constant in our lives. Retaining their ability to truly inspire, move and affect emotion. Congratulations to all the nominees, especially those nominated for the first time, and we look forward to honouring the winners in December."*

Alan Davey, **Controller BBC Radio 3 and classical music** said: *"One of our main commitments here at BBC Radio 3 is to put a spotlight on contemporary composers, supporting their work and giving audiences the chance to discover it. This is true in normal times, but it is much more relevant at the moment – while the careers of so many performers and composers are challenged due to the pandemic. We are therefore delighted to host The Ivors Composer Awards as a broadcast only ceremony on our airwaves, broadcasting all this amazing new music, and showcasing the brightest and most creative musical minds on our vital contemporary UK music scene."*

Winners of Ivor Novello Awards at The Ivors Composer Awards will be announced on Tuesday 1 December from 7.30pm on BBC Radio 3 during an exclusive live broadcast hosted by Kate Molleson and Tom Service.

THE IVORS COMPOSER AWARDS 2020 NOMINATIONS:

** first time nominee*

CHAMBER ORCHESTRAL

- GRIN by ROBIN HAIGH
for chamber orchestra
- HOVER by SALLY BEAMISH
for two oboe, two horns and strings
- PIANO CONCERTO by RYAN WIGGLESWORTH
for piano and chamber orchestra
- PROMETHEUS SYMPHONY by STUART MACRAE
for soprano, bass-baritone and chamber orchestra
- UNE SAISON EN ENFER by JOSEPHINE STEPHENSON*
for tenor and string orchestra

CHORAL

- BOGORÓDITSE DÉVO, RÁDUYŠIĀ by CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD
for SATB choir
- EARTH SONG by RACHEL PORTMAN
for SATB choir
- I SING OF LOVE by BERNARD HUGHES
for SATB choir (with divisi)
- PIETÀ by RICHARD BLACKFORD*
for mezzo soprano, baritone, SATB chorus, optional children's chorus and string orchestra
- PIOUS ANTHEMS AND VOLUNTARIES by MICHAEL FINNISSY
for soloists, organ, flute, violin and choir

COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

- I AM ALBAN by ANNE DUDLEY
for mixed choir, soloists, narrator and orchestra, with libretto by Ian McMillan
- MORE UP by OLIVER VIBRANS*
for chamber orchestra and electronics
- THE BIG PICTURE by JUDITH WEIR
for two choirs (unison/SATB) and instrumental ensemble
- TUQUS by BUSHRA EL-TURK*
for multi ability symphony orchestra
- WHAT DO YOU DO WITH AN IDEA? by PAUL RISSMANN
for orchestra, choir, narrator and dancer, with libretto by Kobi Yamada

JAZZ COMPOSITION FOR LARGE ENSEMBLE

- A TALL TALE by TOM HAINES*
for jazz orchestra
- CREPUSCULE by CHARLIE BATES*
for jazz orchestra
- PRESENT by JONNY MANSFIELD
for jazz orchestra, choir and soloist, with libretto by Ella Hohnen-Ford
- THE PINK SHAGPILE CARPET STORY AKA THE KING OF SPANK by SAM EASTMOND*
for jazz orchestra
- WHAT IS UNDERSTANDING by JELLY CLEAVER*
for ensemble and vocals

JAZZ COMPOSITION FOR SMALL ENSEMBLE

- CALVADOS by ALEX HITCHCOCK*

- for saxophones, double bass, drums and synthesizers*
- ELEMENTAL UTTERANCES by MATT LONDON
- for alto flute, tenor saxophone, violin, double bass, drums and voice*
- NEW EARS SUITE by CALUM GOURLAY*
- for tenor saxophone, tenor trombone, double bass and drums*
- THE VISION THEY HAD by RENELL SHAW*
- for seven-piece band*
- WEIRD WEATHER by MARK LOCKHEART
- for saxophones, keyboards, bass violin and drums*

LARGE CHAMBER

- GLEANN CIÙIN by CLAIRE M SINGER*
- for organ, violin, viola, four cello and two horns*
- HONEY SIREN by OLIVER LEITH
- for string ensemble*
- NO 50. (THE GARDEN) by RICHARD AYRES*
- for amplified ensemble, bass voice and soundtrack*
- SCAR by REBECCA SAUNDERS
- for 15 soloists and conductor*
- THE CENTRE IS EVERYWHERE by EDMUND FINNIS*
- for 12 string players*

LARGE ORCHESTRAL

- CLARINET CONCERTO by MARK SIMPSON*
- for clarinet and orchestra*
- HAWAII HAWAII HAWAII by JOE CUTLER
- for saxophone and orchestra*
- HORROR VACUI by JONNY GREENWOOD
- for solo violin and 68 solo strings*
- NIGHT MUSIC by JASPER DOMMETT*
- for orchestra*
- THE ANVIL by EMILY HOWARD
- for soprano, bass baritone, chamber choir, youth choir, chorus and orchestra,
with libretto by Michael Symmons Roberts*

SMALL CHAMBER

- AROHA by ROBERT LAIDLAW
- for string quartet*
- IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME by ELENA LANGER*
- for soprano, baritone and piano, with libretto by Glyn Maxwell*
- KRAKEN CELLO CONCERTANTE by AMIR KONJANI*
- for Kraken cello, trumpet, violin and Kraken piano*
- ...SHADOWS THAT IN DARKNESS DWELL... by TIMOTHY COOPER*
- for counter tenor, recorder, theorbo, baroque cello and electronics*
- SIX MOVEMENTS by DANIEL FARDON*
- for string quartet*

SOLO OR DUO

- A LINE ALONGSIDE ITSELF by NEWTON ARMSTRONG*
- for solo cello with four pre-recorded cellos and electronic sounds*
- CLOUD ENGINE by THOMAS GIBBS*
- for solo tuba with live electronics*
- DIARIES OF THE EARLY WORM by GARETH MOORCRAFT
- for solo alto recorder*
- DUET FOR EIGHT STRINGS by HARRISON BIRTWISTLE

for viola and cello
- KINDLY, SOFTLY by GEORGIA DENHAM*
for violin and piano

SOUND ART

- INTACT by SOPHIE COOPER*
vocal and trombone recordings edited and manipulated for the Huddersfield Immersive Sound System
- ON COMMON GROUND by CAROLINE DEVINE
abstract vocal fragments, synthesizers and electronic instruments, field recordings and voices
- REQUIEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY by KHYAM ALLAMI*
oud, 16-piece string section and SATB chorus
- THE SCULPTOR SPEAKS by OLIVIA LOUVEL*
electroacoustic resounding of a 1961 recording of Barbara Hepworth's voice
- TWITTERING MACHINES by KATHY HINDE
bespoke vinyl, objects, live electronics, field recordings and video projections

STAGE WORKS

- ABOMINATION: A DUP OPERA by CONOR MITCHELL*
opera: for chamber orchestra, six soloists and SATB chorus
- DENIS & KATYA by PHILIP VENABLES
opera: for mezzo soprano, baritone, four amplified cellos, tape and video, with libretto by Ted Huffman
- SENSE OF TIME by GABRIEL PROKOFIEV
ballet: for symphony orchestra and electronics

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Notes to Editor

PHOTOS

[Click here for photos of the 2020 nominees](#)

Password: ICA2020

THE IVORS ACADEMY

The Ivors Academy is the UK's independent professional association for music creators. We represent and champion a diverse, talented community of songwriters and composers. We are a self-funded not-for-profit organisation, relying on the continued support of our members and partners to carry on our work. The Academy is known internationally for The Ivors and The Ivors Composer Awards. An Ivor Novello Award is the pinnacle in the career of many songwriters and composers.

www.ivorsacademy.com

PRS FOR MUSIC

PRS for Music represents the rights of songwriters, composers and music publishers in the UK and around the world. As a membership organisation it works to ensure that creators are paid whenever their musical compositions and songs are streamed, downloaded, broadcast, performed and played

in public. In 2019, 18.8 trillion performances of music were reported to *PRS for Music* with £810.8m collected on behalf of its members, making it one of the world's leading music collective management organisations.

PRS for Music's public performance licensing is now carried out on *PRS for Music's* behalf by PPL PRS Ltd, the new joint venture between PPL and *PRS for Music*.

www.prsformusic.com

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