Joseph Davies

Composer

Joseph Davies has been hailed as “one of the brightest of rising stars” (*Bernard Clarke, RTÉ*) whose music, described as “extraordinarily vivid and exuberant” (*Ivan Hewitt, BBC Radio 3*) has been performed and broadcast throughout Europe and the USA. Commissions range from virtuosic chamber-size pieces for some of the most gifted musicians of his generation to large-scale works for ensembles including several pieces for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. These include *Intricate Images* (2014) for harpist Catrin Finch and cellist Steffan Morris, the orchestral song cycle *The Shortest Day* (2016) setting specially written texts by former Archbishop of Canterbury and poet Dr Rowan Williams to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, and *Hymn to Hermes* (2018) for The Hermes Experiment. His wide-ranging collaborations include arrangements for Meilyr Jones’s prize-winning album *2013* (2016) on Moshi Moshi and *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose* (2017) for the Tate Britain, and two albums for Baxter Dury, *Prince of Tears* (2017) and *The Night Chancers* (2020), both on Heavenly Recordings. In 2017 Joseph’s wind orchestra piece *Anemoi* was nominated for a BASCA British Composer Award and he was awarded the Sir Geraint Evans Prize by the Welsh Music Guild. Current projects include a violin concerto for BBC NOW and soloist Daniel Pioro for the 2020/21 season (postponed to 2021/22 due to Covid-19).

Born in Cardiff in 1987, Joseph studied with Robert Saxton at Oxford and Gary Carpenter at the Royal Academy of Music. Other projects have included work with CHROMA Ensemble, EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble and the Esbjerg Ensemble (Denmark), and work for the Brighton Soundwaves festival, Lake District Summer Music Festival, Tête-à-Tête Opera and Size Zero Opera. He is a former LSO Soundhub Associate.

Joseph has been a lecturer in composition at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama since 2013. In 2019/20 he was the lead composer for Tŷ Cerdd’s ‘CoDI Text’ scheme, mentoring six composers alongside writer Kaite O’Reilly. He lives in London.