Ben Rowarth

Composer

Winner of the NCEM Composers Award (2012) and Leeds International Film Festival Best Documentary Soundtrack (2013), Ben Rowarth has received numerous commissions and international performances including from Merton College Oxford (2014), York Minster (2015), The Tower of London (2017), The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music (2018), Emmanuel College Cambridge (2019), I Fagiolini (2020), and The Marian Consort (2021). Rowarth has also composed soundtracks for live theatre, documentaries, and fine art exhibitions.

Rowarth’s music has featured on recordings by Helen Charlston, ORA, The Rodolfus Choir, The Fieri Consort and Khoros. His work has also received regular broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, including by internationally acclaimed ensemble The Tallis Scholars. Highlights include the completion of an extended, eight-voice work entitled The Short Walk of a Madman (2021) which was commissioned and recorded by The Fieri Consort; it engages with issues of immigration, belonging and mental health whilst pushing the boundaries of technical writing for vocal ensembles. Rowarth has also been commissioned by acclaimed vocal ensemble The Marian Consort multiple times: *Ave Maris Stella* (2021) was first performed at the Dunster Festival in May 2021, and *The World Around Us* (2022) was an education project in which primary schools around the UK helped to create and perform a new work that reflects on climate, recycling, and renewal. The piece received its world premiere as part of The Dunster Festival on 27 May 2022.

Further highlights include the world premiere of A New Year Carol (2022) commissioned and performed by The Cathedral Singers of Christ Church. Rowarth’s For the Fallen (2018) and Night Prayer (2018) were performed by the BBC Singers in November 2021, conducted by Sofi Jeannin. Rowarth was also commissioned to write for Helen Charlston and Mike Craddock’s album *The Isolation Songbook*, for which he wrote *The King’s Breakfast* (2021)*,* and in December 2021, Christ Church Singers performed a new carol by Rowarth as part of their New Music 2020 project. Reputable vocal ensemble I Fagiolini also commissioned Rowarth’s *Deus Venerunt Gentes* (2021), which featured actress Tamsin Greig as Narrator in its premiere.

One of Rowarth’s upcoming projects includes a commission from innovative vocal ensemble Siglo De Oro directed by Patrick Allie, for which he is collaborating with Writer and Film Director Sophia Carr-Gomm on a new large-scale choral work, *The Fall*. The piece will use voices, cello and electronics to bring to life Carr-Gomm’s fascinating libretto based on the myth of the Trojan horse that delves deep into the self-destructive nature of humanity.

Outside of composition, Rowarth began his musical life as a chorister at Hexham Abbey where he later went on to sing bass and became an organ scholar from 2009 to 2010. Following undergraduate and postgraduate music degrees at Durham and York Universities respectively, Rowarth now performs regularly as a Bass-Baritone, both as a soloist and in several UK-based ensembles including Britten Sinfonia, The OAE, I Fagiolini and The BBC Singers. He lives in London.

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