Charlotte Bray
Composer

British composer Charlotte Bray is one of the most esteemed and in-demand composers of her generation. Championed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, London Sinfonietta and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, her music has been performed festivals in Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Tanglewood, Aix-en-Provence and Verbier and with renowned conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Oliver Knussen, Marin Alsop, Daniel Harding, Jessica Cottis, and Karina Canellakis.

Recent premieres of solo and chamber works include *The Earth Cried Out to the Sky* (2022), performed by mezzo-soprano Esther Valentin and pianistSteffen Schleiermacher at Kissinger Sommer Music Festival, and *From the Innermost Places* (2022), a piece for cellist Anssi Karttunen which was performed at Aldeburgh Festival as part of a concert series celebrating Oliver Knussen. A recent orchestral world premiere featured *Forsaken* (2022), which was performed by Philharmonisches Orchester Hagen and conducted by Joseph Trafton at Stadthalle Hagen in Germany. The work focussed on one of Bray’s central concerns in her work; the human influence on nature. Other orchestral highlights include the premiere of *The Flight of Bitter Water* (2022) which was broadcasted on Ö1, conducted by Marin Alsop and performed by Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien and *Where Icebergs Dance Away* (2021), an orchestral miniature which premiered at the BBC Proms and was performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sakari Oramo, and commissioned by WDR Sinfonieorchester.

Further commissions include works for Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Winter International Arts Festival Sochi under Yuri Bashmet and WDR Sinfonieorchester under Cristian Măcelaru.

Other highlights of ensemble, chamber and solo works include Crossing Faultlines (2021), a song cycle commissioned by soprano Samantha Crawford and pianist Lana Bode which sets commissioned poems by Nicki Jackowska about women’s experiences in the workplace; This other Eden (2020), commissioned by ECHO for their Rising Stars programme for oboist Cristina Gómez Godoy; and The Certainty of Tides (2019) for solo cello and strings, performed by Natalie Clein and the Aurora Orchestra and commissioned by the First 100 Years. *Reflections In Time* (2018) was commissioned and performed by the London Sinfonietta at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

In 2019 Bray was awarded an Ivor Novello Award for *Invisible Cities* (2011)*.* Winner of the Lili Boulanger Prize (2014), Critics’ Circle Award for Exceptional Young Talent (2014), and Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize (2010), *At the Speed of Stillness* (2011-12) featured in the ISCM World Music Days Festival 2017 in Vancouver. Bray was selected as a MacDowell Norton Stevens Fellow (2015-16) and interviewed as part of BBC Radio 3’s Composers’ Room series (2015). She is an Honorary Member of Birmingham Conservatoire, named as their Alumni of the Year 2014 (Excellence in Sport or the Arts), and listed in The Evening Standard’s *Most Inﬂuential Londoners* (2011). Bray has also been Composer in Residence with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group/​Sound and Music (2009/10), Oxford Lieder Festival (2011) and Hatﬁeld House Chamber Music Festival (2015). Her residencies include MacDowell (2013, 2015), Liguria Study Centre Bogliasco (2013), and Aldeburgh Music (2010, 2015).

Portrait discs of Bray’s music have been recorded on RTF Classical (2018) and NMC Records (2014). Her work also features on several discs including *Tecchlers Cello* by Guy Johnston (Kings College Cambridge, 2017), *Oberon Celebrates Shakespeare* by the Oberon Trio (Avi-music and SWR, 2016) and *Upheld by Stillness* by the choral ensemble Ora (Harmonia Mundi, released February 2016).

Originally from High Wycombe, Bray graduated from Birmingham Conservatoire with First Class Honours, having studied composition with Joe Cutler, and then completed a Masters in Composition with Distinction from the Royal College of Music in London, studying with Mark-Anthony Turnage. She went on to participate in the Britten-Pears Contemporary Composition Course with Oliver Knussen, Colin Matthews and Magnus Lindberg and studied at Tanglewood Music Centre with John Harbison, Michael Gandolﬁ, Shulamit Ran and Augusta Read-Thomas. She lives in Berlin.





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