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.

Recent projects include Davies’ violin concerto Parallax (2022) for BBC National Orchestra of Wales and soloist Daniel Pioro under the baton of Ryan Bancroft at BBC Hoddinott Hall, and *Collider* (2021) for UPROAR Ensemble, which toured around Wales from February to April 2022.

Davies’ 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 Hymn to Hermes (2018) for The Hermes Experiment, 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 Intricate Images (2014) for harpist Catrin Finch and cellist Steffan Morris.

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 Davies’ wind orchestra piece Anemoi (2016) was nominated for a BASCA British Composer Award and he was awarded the Sir Geraint Evans Prize by the Welsh Music Guild.

Born in Cardiff in 1987, Davies studied with Robert Saxton at the University of 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.

Davies 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.

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