



EMBARGOED until 21:00 Tuesday 4 DECEMBER

British Composer Awards Celebrate Iconic Composers Sally Beamish and Trevor Wishart

London. 4 December. Composers Sally Beamish and Trevor Wishart will be honoured at this year's British Composer Awards (4 December) with both composers being presented with a Gift of BASCA Award in recognition of their contributions to music throughout their careers to date.



L-R: Sally Beamish; Trevor Wishart

Sally Beamish will be presented with the **British Composer Award for Inspiration** (presented in association with the Music Publishers Association) in recognition of her long and distinguished career as a composer, violist and pianist. The multi-award-winning composer has composed a huge volume of music throughout her career, including for orchestra, chamber and instrumental music, film, theatre, ballet, and compositions for amateurs and has been nominated four times for British Composer Awards.

Her work for orchestra includes two symphonies and several concertos (for violin, viola, cello, oboe, saxophone, saxophone quartet, trumpet, percussion, flute and accordion). Beamish was also selected as one of twenty composers to participate in the New Music 20x12 project as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. The resulting piece, *Spinal Chords*, was an instant success with audiences and critics alike. Employing the unique sound of period strings, Sally crafted an unsettling, constantly shifting accompaniment to journalist Melanie Reid's inspirational account of her struggle with disability. In December 2017 Northern Ballet premiered *The Little Mermaid*, a full-length ballet with her orchestral score. Sally Beamish is currently composer-in-residence with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, for whom she is writing two substantial works, and is currently writing her fourth string quartet for the Elias Quartet.

Trevor Wishart will be presented with a **British Composer Award for Innovation** in recognition of his commitment to innovation throughout his musical career. With a particular focus on translating the human voice and natural sounds into music through the use of technology, Wishart is a pioneer of sonic art. The winner of numerous international awards, Wishart has written extensively on the topic of sonic art and computer music – including *On Sonic Art* (1996) and *Audible Design* (1994) – and has created a number of original software tools for musical composition. He is a founder member of the Composer's Desktop Project.



Beamish and Wishart will be honoured at the British Composer Awards 2018, alongside this year's winners across 12 categories. The British Composer Awards take place at the British Museum in London on Tuesday 4th December.

Celebrating the art of composition and showcasing the creative talent of contemporary composers and sound artists, the British Composer Awards are presented by BASCA and sponsored by PRS for Music. The event is in association with BBC Radio 3 providing exclusive broadcast coverage.

For more information on this year's British Composer Awards visit www.britishcomposerawards.com or follow @ComposerAwards.

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Notes to editors:

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High-res images, and biographies of the nominees are available upon request

About Sally Beamish

Sally Beamish was born in London. Initially a viola player, she moved from London to Scotland in 1990 to develop her career as a composer. Her music embraces many influences – particularly jazz and Scottish traditional music – and is performed and broadcast internationally. Beamish has composed for orchestra, chamber, film, theatre, ballet, and beyond.

Sally Beamish is the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow, a Creative Scotland Award, and a Paul Hamlyn Award; she has also been nominated for the British Composer Awards four times and for the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards. She was recently made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Beamish has been co-director of the St Magnus Composers' Course, with Alasdair Nicolson, since 2006. Beamish is currently composer-in-residence with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, for whom she is writing two substantial works.

Beamish performs regularly as violist, pianist and narrator, and as a presenter and contributor on TV and radio. Her string quartet for the Elias Quartet, Reed Stanzas, received its premiere at the 2011 BBC Proms, and won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. Sally Beamish is currently writing her 4th string quartet, for the Elias Quartet.

Key works include:

- The concerto form is a continuing inspiration, and she has written for many internationally renowned soloists, including Håkan Hardenberger, John Harle, Branford Marsalis, Tabea Zimmermann, James Crabb, Dame Evelyn Glennie and Colin Currie
- Spinal Chords, one of the PRS 20x12 Olympic commissions, with text by The Times Journalist Melanie Reid, toured the UK in 2014 with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and narrator Juliet Stevenson. The composer has also appeared several times as narrator



- Equal Voices, for the London Symphony Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra, with text by Sir Andrew Motion, was premiered at the Barbican and then in Scotland to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War
- Her full-length ballet of the Tempest for Birmingham Royal Ballet and Houston Ballet, with choreographer David Bintley, was premiered in October 2016 at Birmingham Hippodrome and Sadler's Wells, London, with the US premiere in May 2017. Also for the Shakespeare centenary, A Shakespeare Masque was premiered at Stratford by Ex Cathedra, with text by poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Her second ballet, The Little Mermaid, with choreographer David Nixon, for Northern Ballet, toured the UK in 2017/18
- Merula Perpetua, for violist Lise Berthaud and pianist David Saudubray, was premiered in a BBC Chamber Prom in August 2016. The work was written in memory of her friend and mentor, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, and was nominated for a British Composer Award

About Trevor Wishart

Trevor Wishart is a composer/performer from the North of England specialising in sound metamorphosis, and constructing the software to make it possible (Sound Loom / CDP). He has lived and worked as composer-in-residence in Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and the USA.

He creates music with his own voice, for professional groups, or in imaginary worlds conjured up in the studio. His aesthetic and technical ideas are described in the books *On Sonic Art*, *Audible Design* and *Sound Composition* (2012), and he is a principal author of the Composers Desktop Project sound-processing software. His most well-known works include *The VOX Cycle*, *Red Bird*, *Tongues Of Fire*, *Two Women*, *Imago* and *Globalalia*, and pieces have been commissioned by the Paris Biennale, Massachusetts Council for the Arts and Humanities, the DAAD in Berlin, the French Ministry of Culture and the BBC Proms. In 2008 he was awarded the Giga-Hertz Grand prize for his life's work. Between 2006 and 2010 he was composer-in-residence in the North East of England (based at Durham University) creating the sound-surround *Digital Opera Encounters in the Republic of Heaven*, and during 2011, as Artist in Residence at the University of Oxford, began work on the project *The Secret resonance of Things*, transforming astronomical and mathematical data into musical material.

He has also been involved in community, environmental and educational projects, and his *Sounds Fun* books of musical games was republished in Japanese. www.trevorwishart.co.uk

About BASCA

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) exists to celebrate, support and protect the professional interests of all writers of music. We are the voice for music writers; the independent professional association representing music writers in all genres, from songwriting, through to media, contemporary classical and jazz and can trace our history back over 70 years.

Whilst we are well known for putting on the British Composer Awards, the Gold Badge Awards and The Ivors every year, there is far more to us than these events. BASCA campaigns in the UK, Europe and throughout the world in order to protect the professional interests of our members. We count on the best songwriting and composing talent in order to do this important work and are entirely self-



funding, relying on the continuing support of our members, who include The 1975, David Arnold, Gary Barlow, Harrison Birtwistle, Kate Bush, Coldplay, Howard Goodall, Calvin Harris, Imogen Heap, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, John Powell, Dizzee Rascal and many more.

About 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. With over 100 representation agreements in place globally, *PRS for Music's* network represents over two million music creators worldwide. In 2017, 6.6 trillion performances of music were reported to *PRS for Music* with £717m 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*.

About BBC Radio 3

Since it launched in 1946, the Third Programme/ BBC Radio 3 has been a bold pioneer in the cultural world. It is one of the world's foremost presenters, creators, commissioners and curators across classical, folk, world, jazz and contemporary music as well as drama, philosophy and ideas. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new and contemporary music in the UK, with 35 new works commissioned annually and broadcasts over 600 concerts a year, including live broadcasts from the greatest classical music festival in the world (BBC Proms). Radio 3's In Concert programme alone reaches the equivalent of 250 packed concert halls a week, and the BBC Performing Groups give around 400 concerts a year in over 60 UK locations. The station has always nurtured extraordinary artistic talents, provided a platform for important scientific and political debates/announcements, and broadcast ground-breaking experimental drama – always while delivering its core aim of connecting audiences with pioneering music and culture.

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