

Christopher Churcher

Christopher Churcher (b.2004) is one of Britain's most prolific and exciting young composers. Described as 'a remarkable talent' by David Hill, his varied body of works has become increasingly recognised across the United Kingdom for its open, expressive musical language and striking aesthetics. Born in Birmingham, Christopher's formative years were spent taking piano lessons and singing in St. Philip's Cathedral Choir. Fascinated by the compositional process from an early age, Christopher began to write his first pieces at the age of eleven. In October 2022, he began his studies as an undergraduate, reading music at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford.

Christopher has rapidly established an impressive portfolio working with some of Europe's leading choirs, orchestras and chamber ensembles, including VOCES8, The Bach Choir, the Consone Quartet and the Southbank Sinfonia. His body of works has been decorated with over half a dozen national awards, including the 2021 Benslow Young Composer's Award, first prize at the 2021 David Willcocks Carol Competition, and being selected for the Ludlow English Song Weekend Young Composers' Platform in March 2022.

More recently, Christopher was named the under-18 winner of the National Centre for Early Music Young Composer's Award on 19 May 2022. His winning composition, *Arborescent*, was subsequently premiered by the Consone Quartet at All Saints' Church Boughton Aluph, Kent, on 24 June 2022 as part of Stour Music's 60th anniversary. This concert was broadcast on the BBC Radio 3 Early Music Show on the 13th November 2022. Christopher was also announced as one of the six composers for the VOCES8 JAM Masterclass Series 2022. His composition *Echo* written with mentoring from VOCES8 and Professor Paul Mealar was premiered and recorded at St. Bride's Church, London on the 12th October 2022. He went on to win the £500 president's commission from JAM on the Marsh.

In 2023, Christopher's attention has turned to orchestral composition, as he won the Southbank Sinfonia's *Musica Viva* Competition. His new orchestral work, *BREAKWATER*, will be premiered by the Southbank Sinfonia at the opening of the Levinsky Hall, Plymouth on 4 February 2023. In addition, as the recipient of the JAM President's Commission, his new commission for the University of Delaware Schola Cantorum will be premiered in Hythe in July 2023.

Christopher's website is www.christopherchurcher.com.