



presented in association with
BBC Radio 3 and The Tallis Scholars

**National Centre for Early Music
St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York**

Thursday 16 May 2024 7.00pm

Supported by **Mayfield Valley Arts Trust**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



NCEM YOUNG COMPOSERS AWARD

The annual NCEM Young Composers Award was launched in 2008 and is the only such scheme in the UK. It offers a unique opportunity for young composers to engage with the instruments and performance styles of early music, and to work with leading professional early music performers. In bridging the worlds of 'early' and 'new' music, the Award complements the NCEM's education policy, to support and nurture young composers and demonstrate to all participants that the music of previous centuries is relevant to today's creative endeavours.

This major national award is open to young composers resident in the UK, up to the age of 25 at the time that entry closed (this year, 15 March). There are two age categories: 18 years and under; and 19–25 years.

For this year the NCEM and BBC Radio 3 are delighted to welcome as partners **The Tallis Scholars**, founded in 1973 by their director, Peter Phillips. Through their recordings and concert performances, they are established as leading exponents of Renaissance sacred music throughout the world. Peter Phillips has worked with the ensemble to create the purity and clarity of sound which he feels best serves the Renaissance repertoire. It is the resulting beauty of sound for which The Tallis Scholars have become renowned.

Young composers were asked to create a work for The Tallis Scholars based on *Mirabile mysterium* ('A wondrous mystery') by Jacob Gallus (1550-91). The eight shortlisted works will be performed by Ex Corde Vocal Ensemble in today's workshops and concert.

YOUNG COMPOSERS: 2024 SHORTLIST

18 years and under

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Selina Cetin | <i>Nativitas Salvatoris Nostri</i> |
| Jamaal Kashim | <i>Mutationem ac Stabilitatem</i> |
| Matty Oxtoby | <i>Mirabile mysterium</i> |
| Charlotte Robertson | <i>A wondrous mystery</i> |

19 to 25 years

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan Collis | <i>Lux Divinae</i> |
| Reese Carly Manglicmot | <i>Mirabile mysterium</i> |
| Thomas Shorthouse | <i>Mirabile mysterium</i> |
| Tingshuo Yang | <i>Mirabile mysterium</i> |

Earlier today these shortlisted entries were presented by Ex Corde in a workshop with the composers led by **Christopher Fox**, composer and Emeritus Professor of Music at Brunel University.

Tonight, the pieces will be performed in front of a panel of judges:

Peter Phillips *Director, The Tallis Scholars*

Les Pratt *Producer, BBC Radio 3*

Delma Tomlin *Director, NCEM*

At the end of the evening the two winners will be announced, one from each of the two age groups. Composers will be judged on their:

- skill of compositional techniques, including writing for an acappella vocal ensemble;
- innovation of composition, fused with an awareness of The Tallis Scholars' style.

The performances will be streamed live and will be available to view again at <http://www.youngcomposersaward.co.uk>

The winning works will be premiered by The Tallis Scholars in a public concert at Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden, on Sunday 20 October. The performance will be recorded for later broadcast on BBC Radio 3's Early Music Show.

Ex Corde Vocal Ensemble

directed by Paul Gameson

Helen Eastwood, Alisun Russel Pawley, Louise Salmon, Anna Snow *soprano*

Louisa Dobson, Caroline Smith *alto*

Jason Darnell, Christopher O'Gorman *tenor*

John Holland-Avery, Benjamin Rice *bass*

Formed in 2020, Ex Corde consists of professional singers from across the UK, with diverse and successful careers, who are alumni of the University of York and the York-based chamber choir The Ebor Singers. The group uses vocal music to create, collaborate and connect, bringing composers, performers and audiences together, believing in making choral music – both old and new – accessible through innovative programming and imaginative performances. Ex Corde champions British choral composers: forthcoming projects include working with Christopher Fox and York-based composers Ambrose Field and David Lancaster. During its first year, the group performed on BBC Radio 3, sang in the Beverley Early Music Festival, and recorded music by David Lancaster on the Resonus Classics label.

Young composers were asked to create a work for The Tallis Scholars based on *Mirabile mysterium* ('A wondrous mystery') by Jacob Gallus (1550-91).

*Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie,
innovantur naturae; Deus homo factus est;
id quod fuit, permansit,
et quod non erat, assumpsit,
non commixtionem passus neque divisionem.*

A wondrous mystery is declared today,
an innovation is made upon nature; God is made man;
that which he was, he remains,
and that which he was not, he takes on,
suffering neither commixture nor division

In addition to performing the new compositions (in the order decided after the daytime workshops), Ex Corde Vocal Ensemble will perform the following works before and between the composers' pieces:

Mirabile mysterium
Justorum animae
Rejoice!
Inner Light

George Frederic Handel 1685-1759

***Frederick Viner** b. 1994

***Rhiannon Randle** b. 1993

***Kerensa Briggs** b. 1991

*Young Composers Award alumni

Selina Cetin b. 2007

Nativitas Salvatoris Nostris

This piece was written as an acappella, polyphonic motet, setting the text of the late Renaissance song *Mirabile Mysterium*. I decided to have my piece begin in C major, then move to C minor and back to C major, for it to modulate to A minor and ending on A major to create a flow and progression with chords, which is a common feature within the Renaissance period. I chose to end with A major to mirror the lyrics that are sung, representing the light and joy from Jesus's birth.

Selina Cetin lives in Saffron Walden, where she goes to Saffron Walden County High School. She is a singer and plays flute and piano as well as composing and arranging. She is in her school's Chamber Choir and Show Choir, as well as the Saffron Walden County High School Music Academy. Selina started composing and arranging two years ago for her GCSEs from when it has become a major interest.

Ryan Collis b. 2004

Lux Divinae

Lux Divinae explores the connection between secular Renaissance and contemporary classical dissonances, drawing on my background of singing in choir. The piece makes use of word-painting through harmonic shifts, melisma, and hockets to accentuate and emphasise key words. For example, the transition from D minor to A major on 'mysterium', briefly introducing a contemporary chord (D, E, A, C sharp) through a 4-3 suspension that serves as a musical metaphor for the revealed divine mystery. As well as through suspensions, I also explore dissonance influenced by period examples of cross relations, until the emotional climax is reached on the word 'passus', where darker harmonies convey the profound suffering of Jesus. The structural integrity of the piece is supported through judicious pacing and the strategic introduction of new material. For example, the first eight bars are revisited and reharmonized in the ninth bar, evoking a sense of embodying change and continuity. My intention is that the piece transcends its choral framework, as a reflection on the enduring nature of the sacred mystery it portrays.

Ryan Collis is currently a Bachelor of Music (Hons) student in both composition and piano at the Royal College of Music. Originally from Lincolnshire, he is a composer, pianist, organist, and improviser studying under professors Kenneth Hesketh, William Mival and Kathryn Sturrock. Nominated for the BBC Young Composer competition in 2021, Ryan's work for solo harp is to be premiered in the Elgar Room at the Royal Albert Hall. He regularly contributes to church services and assists the director of music at St Margaret of Cortona & All Saints Catholic Parish.

Jamaal Kashim b. 2007*Mutationem ac Stabilitatem*

Translating to 'Change and Stability', this composition delves into the notion that prolonged periods of permanence can breed a sense of unease, prompting the necessity for change to establish resolutions and restore stability. Through musical exploration, it portrays the delicate balance between the desire for constancy and the inevitability of change, highlighting the importance of sustaining equilibrium in all aspects of life.

Jamaal Kashim began exploring composition and arrangement during lockdown, with particular focus on writing for the screen. Since then his study of composition has broadened. As a joint first-study composer at the Royal College of Music Junior Department with Dr Jonathan Pitkin, he has written for a variety of ensembles with works performed by the Gildas Quartet, Anne Denholm, Cameron Sinclair and members of the Chineke! Junior Orchestra. Jamaal was highly commended in the BBC Young Composer competition in 2023, awarded second prize in this year's Surrey Hills Young Composer Competition and has had work featured on BBC Radio 3, Google Arts & Culture and in projects with English Heritage. Jamaal studies harp with Daphne Boden. He was principal harpist with the Royal Concertgebouworkest Young Orchestra 2023 and is an LPO Junior Artist 2023/2024. Jamaal enjoys studying Japanese, particularly calligraphy, and intends to pursue music studies at university. Jamaal is grateful to the estate of Humphrey Searle for its support.

Reese Carly Manglicmot b. 2004*Mirabile mysterium*

Mirabile mysterium draws upon musical elements present in the choral repertoire of the European Renaissance; in particular, chromaticism, polyphony and, to an extent, antiphonal placement (explored between the two sopranos). However, these elements were borne from an emphasis on communicating the light and subtleties of the mystery of faith presented in this Christmastide text: that the Lord was made man. The piece's structure reflects my journey in understanding this mystery as a follower of Jesus Christ, embodying a faithful practice of contemplation and listening to inform the compositional process. Moments of clarity and mystery, stasis and movement intertwine to form a larger picture – a perspective on a simple yet complex, awe-inspiring reality to grapple with, which one could only keep questioning and discovering more.

Reese Carly Manglicmot studied at the Purcell School from 2017 to 2022. Her practice spans from early and classical performance to contemporary composition and improvisation projects. In 2023 she was one of the winners of the BBC Young

Composer competition and had a work premiered at *soundfestival* in Aberdeen. Reese has earned accolades in international piano competitions, and performed and self-premiered in Lithuania, Romania and across the UK. She was commended in the inaugural Raymond Ali Liszt Competition at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland as a soloist, whilst maintaining work as a collaborative pianist in the West of Scotland. Reese studies piano and composition with Fali Pavri and Stuart MacRae at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under an RCS Trust Scholarship.

Matty Oxtoby b. 2006

Mirabile mysterium

Mirabile mysterium starts on two notes, representing separation between God and mankind. A free sense of tempo and lack of starting key centre initially evoke a sense of mystery. After a brief silence, a homophonic dotted rhythm announces that the mystery is being 'declared today'. Lively quavers weaving between parts then spread the news that 'God is [being] made man', building up to a proclamation of this in strong, stacked fifths. A subsequent modulation into a new key highlights that God is taking on a new form. Previous musical ideas then return, coming together whilst also retaining their own identities, reflecting that God is not suffering from commixture or division despite changing to become man. The music crescendos to a loud climax with parts singing in rhythmic unity, after which the parts divide until a single solo line appears, mirroring the newly formed unity between God and mankind.

Matty Oxtoby, a pupil at Reigate Grammar School, studies composition, piano, cello and conducting at the Royal College of Music Junior Department. A former chorister, he currently sings tenor with his school senior vocal ensemble, Polyphony. In 2020 he was a winner of the BBC Young Composer competition; in 2022 he won the RCMJD Joan Weller Composition Competition and also the inaugural Surrey Hills Young Composer Competition. His compositions have been performed by the Sitkovetsky Trio, Onyx Brass, the Riot Ensemble and Rolf Hind. As a performer, highlights include playing cello with the National Youth Orchestra, obtaining his LRSM diploma on piano, directing his school swing band and conducting his school junior string group.

Charlotte Robertson b. 2007

A wondrous mystery

The opening text 'A wondrous mystery is declared today' focuses upon the wonder of Christ, and exploits melismatic writing and chromatic suspensions to heighten the concept of mystery, majesty and wonder. Important lines of the text are repeated, whilst remaining pianissimo to reflect the gentleness of 'nature'. The tempo pushes forward with longer lines, outlining 'wondrous' through sequential descents and decorated repetitions, to conclude with the word 'today' in a homorhythmic setting. The statement 'God is made man' develops this idea, with subtle decorative embellishments where the text is repeated. The final section follows a more lyrical setting to reflect the more descriptive narrative elements. A cascading texture introduces 'suffering' with returning dissonance to heighten the prevailing mood, before the final complete declaration re-aligns the ensemble for a much more prolonged period, culminating in a bold affirmation of 'God is made man' to complete the journey from wonder to majesty.

Charlotte Robertson is currently studying A-level music at St Bartholomew's School in West Berkshire. She attends Junior Guildhall on Saturdays, where she enjoys developing her compositional skills in both traditional methods and film-score approaches. Charlotte plays the piano as her principal instrument, and the cello with the County Youth Orchestra and the Newbury Symphony Orchestra, both of which will be premiering two of her new works. Charlotte intends to pursue a career in composition, reading music at a conservatoire or at university after completing her sixth-form studies.

Thomas Shorthouse b. 2004

Mirabile mysterium

Inspired by the choral and vocal writing of Lili Boulanger, I set out to write a piece with a similar tumultuous atmosphere, claustrophobic harmonies and sudden, dramatic shifts in tone. This piece is set to a text by Jacob Gallus (1550-1591) titled *Mirabile mysterium*, where the title of the work comes from. The text depicts the arrival of God on earth as man. I was particularly fond of the extract *Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie, innovantur naturae* ('A wondrous mystery is declared today, an innovation is made upon nature') which appears frequently in this piece as a kind of chant, echoing many early forms of vocal music. I was also deeply inspired by the work of contemporary composer Arvo Pärt and utilised Pärt's tintinnabulation technique throughout this piece to create dense, yet resonant harmonies.

Thomas Shorthouse is a London-based composer hailing from the north of England. Educated in both music and visual art, he is often inspired by both

disciplines, from the hyper-real work of Female Pentimento and the playful, washed-out worlds of Mary Shelley, to the folk music he played in his early years on the violin and works of Messiaen and Takemitsu. A scholar at the Royal College of Music, Thomas's undergraduate studies have led him to collaborations with emerging artists including Patricia Gomez, Christiana Achim, the Vox Quartet, and Luca Imperiale, as well as workshops with established ensembles including the Fidelio Trio, Alkyona Quartet and the RCM String Orchestra. He has also received commissions for chamber and large ensemble works.

Thomas is grateful to be an Ian Evans Lombe Scholar at the RCM.

Tingshuo Yang b. 2004

Mirabile mysterium

Mirabile mysterium is set to a text by Jacob Gallus, written in the late sixteenth century. This piece aims to explore the theme of mystery through bitonality, pitting major chords against minor chords, while creating energy through repetitive figures to signify God's work at making man. Dissonant harmony is introduced to illustrate suffering, resolving back to the repetitive figure and bitonality idea towards the end that winds down, as if God has finally finished his creation and is sitting back to admire it.

Tingshuo Yang is a Chinese-Luxembourgish musician who has shown insatiable curiosity for music since his childhood, having his first piano lesson aged four. From 2012 until 2016, he studied piano at the Royal College of Music Junior Department with Geoffrey Govier, attaining his DipABRSM aged ten and LRSM two years later. He also studied at the Conservatoire de la Ville de Luxembourg with Professor Jean Muller and made his solo debut with the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra in April 2019. Tingshuo also studied composition with Claude Lenner, winning prizes in several competitions, including the International 'Artistes en Herbe' and the Royal College of Organists D'Overbroekes competitions. In 2018, he was awarded a music scholarship to Eton College, where he attained his ARCO in organ performance and played regularly for the chapel choirs. In August 2023, he was highly commended in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, also working with David Hill as the organ scholar of the Charles Wood Festival in Armagh. Tingshuo is currently the junior organ scholar at St John's College Cambridge, studying music in his first year.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

| <i>Year</i> | <i>In association with</i> | <i>18 years and under</i> | <i>19–25 years</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023 | English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble | Jacob Jordan | Owen Spafford |
| 2022 | Consone Quartet | Christopher Churcher | Adam Possener |
| 2021 | Palisander | Jacob Fitzgerald | Delyth Naya |
| 2020 | The Tallis Scholars | Eilidh Owen | Fintan O'Hare |
| 2019 | Liam Byrne | _____ | Sarah Cattley Derri Joseph Lewis |
| 2018 | English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble | Lilly Vadaneaux | Andrew Blair |
| 2017 | The Tallis Scholars | Dominic Wills | Frederick Viner |
| 2016 | Theatre of the Ayre | Alex Dakin | Kristina Arakelyan |
| 2015 | Dunedin Consort | Joshua Urben | John Goldie-Scot |
| 2014 | The Tallis Scholars | Fraz Ireland | Hugo Bell Kerensa Briggs |
| 2013 | Florilegium | Lilly Vadaneaux | Joseph Howard |
| 2012 | The Tallis Scholars | Alex Woolf | Ben Rowarth |
| 2011 | Fretwork | Bertie Baigent Sarah Gait | Chris Roberts |
| 2010 | The Tallis Scholars | Owain Park | Alexander Campkin |
| 2009 | The Tallis Scholars | Elizabeth Edwards | Michael Perrett |
| 2008 | The Tallis Scholars | Kerrin Tatman | |