



# Emily Howard

Contemporary

# Emily Howard



Emily Howard's music is known for its particular connection with science. She first won critical acclaim with *Magnetite* ("a structural tour de force" – *AllMusic*), commissioned by Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008 for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Vasily Petrenko, the year she received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Composers. Her works are commissioned, performed and broadcast internationally by leading festivals and ensembles including the BBC Proms, Wien Modern, the London Symphony Orchestra, Bamberger Symphoniker, and New Scientist Live. Howard was a featured composer at the Aldeburgh Festival 2018, which included the world premiere of her opera *To See The Invisible*.

Described by The Times as "visionary" and by The Guardian as "one of this year's finest new works", her 2016 BBC Proms commission, *Torus (Concerto for Orchestra)*, gained wide critical acclaim and subsequently won a 2017 British Composer Award. BBC Radio 3's Record Review described Howard's 2016 NMC Debut Disc *Magnetite* as "a confident, major orchestral debut", hailing its "scientific ideas brilliantly articulated". Indeed, orchestral writing is key to Howard's work. *Solar* ("galactic power on a compact scale" – The Financial Times) received its world premiere in 2010 with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Collon at the Barbican Centre, and in 2013 was given its Australian premiere (West Australian Symphony Orchestra / Paul Daniel) with further performances by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Garry Walker. *Axon*, a BBC Radio 3 commission for the BBC Philharmonic and Juanjo Mena, was first performed at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, in the same year.

Further orchestral highlights include performances of *Magnetite* in the Musikverein (Tonkünstler Orchestra / Andrés Orozco-Estrada), *Solar* and *Calculus of the Nervous System* in the Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra / Sir James MacMillan) during Howard's international composer-focus at Wien Modern 2011. *Calculus of the Nervous System* was given its UK premiere by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons at the 2012 BBC Proms while *Mesmerism*, a Diamond Jubilee commission for the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra with pianist Alexandra Dariescu, won a 2012 British Composer Award. More recently, the short orchestral work *sphere* received premiere performances with the Bamberger Symphoniker conducted by Alondra de la Parra in Germany in March 2017.

Vocal music is another area of enormous interest. New Music 20x12 mini-opera, *Zátapek!*, a Second Movement commission for the London Cultural Olympiad was described as "a tremendous opera" on BBC2's The Review Show. Dramatic vocal work *Ada Sketches* received performances at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Theatre, performed by Loré Lixenberg in 2012. Since then, Howard has developed and led *Ada Sketches* audience-interactive events with mathematician Lasse Rempe-Gillen at the Science Museum (Critics' Choice, Time Out, London), the Oxford Mathematical Institute (Ada Lovelace Symposium 2015) and with the Oxford e-Research Centre at the Science in the City Festival, Manchester European City of Science 2016.

Howard's chamber music includes *Masquerade* written for clarinettist Mark Simpson and clarinet quintet *Zugzwänge* (Quatuor Danel / Nicholas Cox). In 2015 string quartet *Afference* for the Elias String Quartet premiered at London's Wigmore Hall and *Leviathan* for Paris based duo *scapegoat* received several performances including at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and as part of a North American Tour in May 2015. Most recently *Chaos or Chess*, for solo microtonal tuba, was developed in collaboration with Berlin-based tubist Jack Adler-McKean at the Darmstadt International Summer Course for New Music 2016 and premiered as part of Howard's 2016 BBC Proms Extra Composer Conversation. *The Music of Proof*, a collaboration with mathematician Marcus du Sautoy (Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science, University of Oxford) and the Piatti String Quartet premiered at New Scientist Live 2017.

A graduate in mathematics and computer science from Oxford University, Howard holds a Masters in Composition from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and a Doctorate in Composition from the University of Manchester. In 2010 she became the inaugural UBS Composer in Residence in conjunction with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Bridge Academy, Hackney, a post she then mentored. She was Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence at the University of Liverpool's Department of Mathematical Sciences in 2015, and is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering, University of Liverpool.

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**Solo****Chaos or Chess** (2016) / 4'

Solo Tuba

First performed on 25 August 2016 by Jack Adler-McKean at Imperial College Union, London, BBC Proms Extra  
EP 73342

**Sky and Water** (2004-5) / 7'

Solo Piano

First performed by John McCabe at the Landscapes of the Mid Festival at Guildhall School of Music and Drama,  
London, 22 February 2006

EP 73318

**Outlier** (2018) / 4'

Solo Viola

Commissioned by the London Sinfonietta

First performed on 26 September 2018 by Paul Silverthorne at Kings Place, London

EP 73345

**R** (2021) / 7'

Solo Percussion

Commissioned by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

First performed by Julian Warburton at the Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol on 11 June 2021

EP 73604

**Voluntary** (2021) / c. 8'

Solo Cello

Commissioned as part of the 200 pieces project for the 200th Anniversary of the Royal Academy of Music,  
London

First performed by Theo Bently Curtin (cello) on 19 October 2021 at Royal Academy of Music, London

EP 73632

**Duo****Cloud Chamber** (2006) / 6'

Clarinet and Piano

First performed by Nicholas Cox and Jonathan Scott on 5 March 2006 at the Royal Northern College of Music,  
Manchester, as part of the RNCM Woodwind Festival 2006

EP 73319

**Leviathan** (2014-15) / 13'

Baritone Saxophone and Percussion

First performed by *scapegoat* (Joshua Hyde and Noam Bierstone) on their North American Tour May 2015  
(Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, Chicago and New York), La Vitrola, 4602 Boul St-Laurent, Montreal, Quebec

EP 73338

**Masquerade** (2009) / 6'

Basset Clarinet and Piano

First performed by Mark Simpson and Ian Buckle at the Cornerstone, Liverpool, on 23 November 2009

EP 73324

**Orbits** (2015) / 12'

Soprano Saxophone and Crotales

First performed by *scapegoat* (Joshua Hyde and Noam Bierstone) at the Forsyth Centre, Liverpool, on 17  
November 2015

EP 73339

**Chamber****Afference** (2014) / 22'

String Quartet

Commissioned by the Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust and the RWV Trust

First performed by the Elias Quartet at Wigmore Hall, London, on 4 May 2015

EP 73337

**Broken Hierarchies II** (2008-9) / 7'

Piano Trio

Commissioned by

First performed at Soundings, Austrian Cultural Forum by the Fidelio Trio on May 2009

EP 73325

**Compass** (2022) / 20'

Chamber Ensemble

Percussion (1 player), 2 Violins, 2 Violas, 2 Violoncellos and Double Bass

Commissioned by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group with financial assistance from Arts Council England and individuals through BCMG's Sound Investment scheme:

First performed by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group with Julian Warburton as soloist, conducted by Gabriella Teychenné on 29 May 2022 at the CBSO Centre, Birmingham.

EP 73646

**Four Musical Proofs and a Conjecture** (2017) / 10'

String Quartet

*Proofs: Marcus du Sautoy*

Commissioned by the Nicholas Boas Charital Trust

First performed by the Piatti Quartet at New Scientist, The ExCel, London, on 28 September 2017

EP 73344

**Lachrymose** (2006) / 4'A Commentary on Mozart's *Requiem* for Chamber Orchestra

0.0.2.2–0.2.3(I=Alto, II=Tenor, III=Bass).0–Timp–Str (8.6.4.4.2)

Commissioned by Sounds New 2006, as part of Sounds New Requiem+

First performed by Southbank Sinfonia, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury, at Canterbury Cathedral on 5 December 2006

EP 73321

**Obsidian** (2010) / 6'

Brass Band

Soprano Cornet, 9Cornets, Flugelhorn, Solo Horn, 2Horns, 2Baritones, 2Euphoniums, 2Trombones, Bass Trombone, 2 Eb Bases, 2 Bb Bases, Timp, 3Perc

Commissioned by Prima Vista Music for Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band

First performed on 13 June 2010 by the Black Dyke Band, conducted by Nicholas Childs, at the Brass Arts Festival, Leeds Town Hall

EP 73328

**Settle** (2009-10) / 16'

Chamber Ensemble and Film

To be performed either as a concert piece or alongside a screening of the film, *Settle*, by Jacqueline McCormick  
1(Picc).0.1.1–0.1.1.0–Vibraphone–1.0.0.0.1

Commissioned for Ensemble 10/10, the Contemporary Music Group of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

First performed on 10 February 2010 by Ensemble 10/10, conducted by Clark Rundell, at the Cornerstone, Liverpool

EP 73329

**Shield** (2021) / 13'

String Quartet

Commissioned by Het Concertgebouw, the Fidelio Trust, the Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust, the RNCM Centre for Practice &amp; Research in Science &amp; Music (PRiSM) and the Piatti Quartet.

First performed by the Piatti Quartet on 21 April 2021 at the Recital Hall, Concertgebouw

EP 73579

**Zugzwänge** (2012) / 16'

Clarinet Quintet

Cl, 2Vln, Vla, Vc

Commissioned by the Rodewald Concert Society

First performed by Nicholas Cox and Quatuor Danel at St George's Hall, Liverpool

EP 73333

**Orchestra****Antisphere** (2019) / 17'

For Orchestra

3(III=Picc).3(III=Ca).3(III=Bcl).3(III=Cbsn)-4.3.3.1-Timp-5Perc-Hp-Str

Commissioned by the Barbican Centre for Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra

First performed on 14th September 2019 by the London Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Sir Simon Rattle) at the Barbican Centre, London, UK

EP 73424

**Axon** (2013) / 21'

For Large Orchestra

3(III/Picc).3(III/CA).3(III/Bcl).3(III/Cbsn)-4.3.2+Btbn.1-Timp-3Perc-Hp-Str (14.12.10.8.6)

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the BBC Philharmonic

First performed at the Bridgewater Hall by the BBC Philharmonic on 1 November 2013, conducted by Juanjo Mena

EP 73336

**Calculus of the Nervous System** (2011) / 14'

For Large Orchestra

3(III/Picc).3(III/CA).3(III/Bcl).3(III/Cbsn)-4.3.2+Btbn.1-Timp-3Perc-Hp-Str (14.12.10.8.6)

Commissioned by Wien Modern

First performed ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna, conducted by James MacMillan, in the Great Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus

EP 73332

**Magnetite** (2007) / 10'

For Orchestra

2(II/Picc).2.2(II/Bcl).2(II/Cbsn)-4.2.2+Btbn.1-Timp-2Perc-Str (16.14.12.10.8)

Commissioned by Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008 for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

First performed on 6 December 2007 by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, conducted by Vasily Petrenko, at Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, at the opening concert of the RLPO's European Capital of Culture Season

EP 73322

**Mesmerism** (2011) / 17'

For Solo Piano and Chamber Orchestra

Solo Pf-2(II/Picc).2.2.2-2.2.0.0-Timp-Str (6.6.4.4.2)

Commissioned by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra in its Diamond Jubilee Year with support from the PRS for Music Foundation

First performed by Alexandra Dariescu and the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra, conducted by Mark Heron, at Pacific Road Venue, Birkenhead, UK, on 8 October 2011

EP 73331

**Passacaglia** (2002) / 7'

For String Orchestra

Str (min: 6.6.4.4.2)

Commissioned by Opus One Chamber Orchestra

First performed on 7 July 2002 by Opus One Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Michael Gatward, at St. Giles Church, Wrexham, UK

EP 73317

**Solar** (2010) / 5'30

For Large Orchestra

3(III/Picc).3(III/CA).3.3(III/Cbsn)-4.3.2+Btbn.1-Timp-2Perc-Hp-Str (14.12.10.8.6)

Commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra as part of UBS Soundscapes: Pioneers

First performed on 10 November 2010 by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas Collon, at Barbican Hall, London

EP 73326

**sphere** (2017) / 5'30

For Orchestra

2.2.2.2-4.2.2+Btbn.0-Timp-Str (14.12.10.8.6)

Commissioned by the Bamberger Symphoniker

First performed on 9 March 2017 by Bamberger Symphoniker, conducted by Alondra de la Parra, at Theater der Stadt, Schweinfurt, Germany

EP 73343

**Torus (Concerto for Orchestra)** (2016) / 22'

For Large Orchestra

3(III/Picc).3.3(III/Bcl).3(III/Cbsn)-4.3.2+Btbn.1-Timp-3Perc-Hp-Str (14.12.10.8.6)

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society

First performed on 25 August 2016 by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (to celebrate its 175th Anniversary), conducted by Vasily Petrenko at the Royal Albert Hall

EP 73341

**Opera****Ada Sketches** (2011) / 7'

Scena for Mezzo-soprano and Chamber Ensemble

MS, Fl, Cl, Perc

*Libretto: Laura Tunbridge*

Commissioned at Soundings X, Austrian Cultural Forum, London, on 12 May 2011

First performed by Loré Lixenberg (mezzo), Rowland Sutherland (fl), Tom Lessels (cl) and Adam Clifford (perc)

EP 73330

**To See the Invisible** (2016-18) / 80'

Chamber Opera

Male Voice (eg. bar with good falsetto)-Female Voice (eg. S with wide range)-2MS.2T.Bar

0.1(Picc).1(EbCl, Bcl).0-0.0.1.0-2Perc-1.0.1.1.1

*Libretto: Selma Dimitrijevic after a short story by Robert Silverberg*

Commissioned by Snape Maltings for The Aldeburgh Festival

First performed in the Britten Studio, Snape Maltings, on 8 June 2018, by BCMG conducted by Richard Baker

EP 73346

**Zatopek!** (2012) / 14'

A Mini-Opera

HighS.MS.T.Contralto.HighBar.Bar.BBar-Chorus(c.30 singers-Men, Women, Children)

0.0.1.0-0.0.1.0-Perc-1.0.0.1.0

*Libretto: Selma Dimitrijevic*

Commissioned by Second Movement, with funds from New Music 20x12 – a UK wide commissioning programme initiated by Jillian Barker and David Cohen, and delivered by PRS for Music Foundation in partnership with the BBC, LOCOG and NMC Recordings for the London Cultural Olympiad 2012

First performed on 15 June 2012 by Ensemble 10/10, conducted by Clark Rundell, with members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic &amp; Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choirs at the Epstein Theatre, Liverpool

EP 73334

**Vocal and Choral****The Anvil (An Elegy for Peterloo)** (2019)

Soprano & Bass-baritone Soli, Chamber Choir, Youth Choir, Chorus and Orchestra  
3(III=Picc).3.3(III=Bcl).3(III=Cbsn)-5.3.3.1-Timp-3Perc-Str

*Text: Michael Symmons Roberts*

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and Manchester International Festival and first performed by Kate Royal (soprano), Christopher Purves (baritone) and the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Singers, Hallé Choir, Hallé Youth Choir and Hallé Ancoats Community Choir, conducted by Ben Gernon at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on 7 July 2019

First broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 16 August 2019, the 200th Anniversary of Peterloo  
EP 73386

**But then, what are these numbers?** (2019) / 14'

Mezzo-soprano and Chamber Ensemble

Mezzo-soprano, Flute, Bass Clarinet, Percussion (1 player), Harp, Piano, Violin, Violoncello

Commissioned by the Barbican Centre

First performed by Marta Fontanals-Simmons and the Britten Sinfonia at Milton Court Concert Hall, London, on 2 November 2019 at the event Ada Lovelace: Imagining the Analytical Engine curated by Emily Howard as part of the Barbican's Life Rewired Season

EP 73473

**Ite Fortes** (2006) / 17'30

Solo Violin and Chamber Choir (SATB: at least two per part)

Commissioned by Alteri Chamber Choir

First performed on 1 April 2006 by Sara Wolstenholme (vln) and the Alteri Chamber Choir, conducted by David Jones

EP 73320

**Songs from Dickens** (2010) / 12'

Female Singer, Narrator and Piano Trio

*Text: Ian Pople*

Commissioned for Soundings VIII, Austrian Cultural Forum, London

First performed on 12 May 2010 by Lore Lixenberg, Gerald Davidson and the Fidelio Trio at the Austrian Cultural Forum, London

EP 73327

**Threnos** (2015) / 7'

Two Voices (Soprano/Mezzo and Bass/Baritone)

Recorded by Lucy Goddard and Simon Whiteley

EP 73340

**Two Songs after Friday Afternoons** (2013) / 4'

Children's Voices and Piano

BIG BUMS

Pi (A Pie?)

*Text: Selma Dimitrijevic*

Commissioned by Opera North

First performed on 22 November 2013 by Opera North Children's Chorus, Scotton Lingerfield Primary School, Old Earth Primary School, Our Lady and St Peter Roman Catholic Primary School, Monkwood Primary School, conducted by Anthony Kraus, Justin Doyle (pf), at Howard Assembly Room, Leeds

EP 73335

**Wild Clematis in Winter** (2008) / 3'

Mezzo-soprano and Piano

*Text: Geoffrey Hill*

Commissioned by NMC Recordings for The NMC Songbook

First performed on 2 April 2009 by Jean Rigby and Huw Watkins at Kings Place, London

EP 73323



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