



Julian Philips

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Born in Wales in 1969 and brought up in Warwickshire, Julian Philips studied music at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and is one of Britain's most versatile composers. His music has been performed across the world at major festivals and venues including the BBC Proms, Tanglewood Music Festival, Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne and Wigmore Hall, by international artists including Gerald Finley, Dawn Upshaw, Sir Thomas Allen, the Vertavo String Quartet and BBC orchestras.

With a particular affinity for music for voice, Philips has been critically acclaimed for song settings of Emily Dickinson, e e cummings, Dylan Thomas and Langston Hughes among others, most recently a new cycle for baritone, cello and harp, **Turning Fifty** (2019) based on the poetry of Judith Wright. **Love Songs for Mary Joyce** (2016), commissioned by Wigmore Hall for tenor James Gilchrist and pianist Anna Tilbrook, sets a series of late love poems by John Clare. His choral music is similarly celebrated and is included in the Choirbook for the Queen (**Church Music**) as well as being commissioned for the BBC Proms (**Sorrowful Songs**).

As Glyndebourne Opera's first ever Composer-in-Residence, Philips completed two chamber operas in 2006-9: **Followers**, a site-specific promenade opera with a libretto by Simon Christmas, and **The Yellow Sofa** with a libretto by Edward Kemp, subsequently featured in Glyndebourne's tour and shortlisted for a British Composer Award. The year-long development of **Knight Crew** was filmed by BBC Television and the resulting series, **Gareth goes to Glyndebourne**, aired in June 2010. Philips' opera **How the Whale Became**, a collaboration with Edward Kemp, was based on Ted Hughes's **The Dreamfighter and other creation tales**, and was written for the Royal Opera House's Christmas 2013/14 season. His most recent full-length opera, **The Tale of Januarie**, was staged by the Guildhall School in Spring 2017, boasting perhaps the first libretto in Middle English by Stephen Plaice, and based on Chaucer's **The Merchant's Tale**. A new primary school children's opera, **Henny Penny** (2021), offers its participants an immersive experience both in music and modern language learning, with versions in French (**Cocotte Chocotte**), German (**Hennig Pfennig**) and Spanish (**Pollita Chiquita**).

Ballet and opera are natural progressions for Philips, who already has an impressive track-record in composing for the theatre and has written two full-length ballets for choreographer Michael Corder and English National Ballet; a ballet based on **Les Liaisons Dangereuses** was followed by **The Snow Queen** in 2007. Symphonic works also form Philips' oeuvre with **All that remains** commissioned to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of World War I receiving its world premiere by the National Orchestra of Belgium. **Ballades Concertantes**, for solo viola and double bass with chamber orchestra, premiered with Virginia Slater, Stacey Watton, and the Orchestra of the Swan in 2017, conducted by David Curtis.

A vital force in education, Philips is the Head of Composition at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama where he was made Honorary Fellow in 2007, and conferred a Professorship in 2014. He was responsible for the creation of both a new Masters Programme in Opera-Making & Writing and a Doctoral Composer-in-Residence scheme in association with the Royal Opera House.

Recent projects include a new oboe quintet, **Through Silence** (2020) for Wigmore Hall, and a set of folk song creative transcriptions, **Melody of Earth and Sky** (2021), for violin and clarinet that draw on the two books of fiddle tunes collected by poet John Clare. The work was released on NMC Recordings in March 2022, reaching no 10 in the classical charts. In October 2022, *The Country of Larks* for tenor, horn and piano – a setting of Robert Louis Stevenson – receives its third performance at the Oxford Lieder Festival.

In August 2022, Julian Philips is featured composer at the Presteigne Festival, with six works featured including performances of **Barcarola** for solo piano, and **Divertissement** for chamber orchestra, based on his ballet score for **Les Liaisons Dangereuses**. The residency also includes a performance of **Looking West**, a large-scale dramatic cantata for voices, actors and ensemble, with a libretto by Rebecca Hurst, commissioned to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams.

For further information:

Leipzig

C. F. Peters Ltd. & Co. KG

Talstraße 10

D-04103 Leipzig

Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 989 792 31

✉ stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com

New York

C. F. Peters Corporation

70–30 80th Street

Glendale NY 11385

USA

☎ + (1) 718 416 7800

✉ gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com

London

Peters Edition Ltd

2–6 Baches Street

London N1 6DN

UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4000

✉ newmusic@editionpeters.com

Instrumental

Barcarola (2022) 9 minutes

Solo Piano

First performed 25 November 2019 by Dominic Devagino at Milton Court, London

EP 73673

Four Characters (2003) c. 12 minutes

Viola and Piano

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for violist Lawrence Power, one of the station's New Generation Artists.

First performed 2 July 2003, St Mary's Abchurch, the City of London Festival, by Lawrence Power (viola) and Jonathan Biss (piano).

EP 7991

Winter Music (2016) 9 minutes

Solo Harp

Commissioned with funds made available by the Tanza Trust

First performed by Oliver Wass at St John's Smith Square, London, on 26 October 2017.

EP 73563

Chamber Ensemble

Maxamorphosis (2012) c. 22 minutes

Solo Viola and Ensemble

Commissioned by Aurora Orchestra with funding from the RPS Drummond Fund and the PRS Foundation.

First performed 13 July 2012, LSO St Luke's, as part of the City of London Festival, by Aurora Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Collon.

EP 72297

Sextet (1999, revised 2011) c. 15 minutes

Wind Quintet and Piano

Commissioned by Warwick and Leamington Festival, with funds from West Midlands Arts.

Revised version commissioned by the New London Chamber Ensemble.

First performed (revised version) 12 June 2011, The Forge, Camden, by New London Chamber Ensemble

EP 72193

Sweet love remembered (2011) c. 25 minutes

(Goodison Quartet No. 2)

Baritone and String Quartet

Text: Various

Commissioned by Sir Nicholas and Lady Judith Goodison as part of the Goodison Quartet series for Wigmore Hall.

First performed 30 April 2011, Wigmore Hall, London, by Gerald Finley and the Vertavo Quartet

EP 72212

Orchestral / Instrumental

All that remains (2014) 7 minutes

3.3.Ca.3.Bcl.3-2.2.3.1-2Perc-Hp-Str

First performed on 19 October 2014 at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium, by the National Orchestra of Belgium conducted by Hugh Wolff.

EP 72620

Ballades Concertantes (2017) 20 minutes

For Solo Viola and Solo Double Bass, 2 Horns, 2 Oboes/Cor Anglais and Strings

1. Dame, ne regardes pas
2. Sanz cuer m'en vois
3. Je ne cuit pas qu'onques a creature
4. Dame, se vous m'estes lontaine

Commissioned by the Orchestra of the Swan

First performed by Virginia Slater (viola) and Stacey Watton (double bass) with the Orchestra of the Swan, conducted by David Curtis, on 20 June 2017 at Stratford Arts House, Stratford upon Avon

EP 73105

Come Forth to Play (2013) 6 minutes

Concert Fanfare

For 2 Brass Choirs, Organ and Percussion

Group 1: 4 horns in F, 1 Trumpet in D, 2 Trumpets in B flat, 2 Tenor trombones, 1 Bass trombone, 1 Tuba in E flat

Group 2: 4 horns in F, 1 Trumpet in D, 2 Trumpets in B flat, 2 Tenor trombones, 1 Bass trombone, 1 Tuba in E flat

Group 3: Organ, Percussion (3 Players) 3 Tubular Bells (G, B flat, F), Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Tam Tam, Bass Drum

Written for the opening of Milton Court Concert Hall and first performed by Guildhall School Brass and Organ Students and James Wilshire (organ) in September 2013

Out of Light (2001) 20 minutes

Symphony Poem for Large Orchestra

3(II=Picc, III=Picc&A-fl).2.Ca.3(III=B-cl).2.Cbsn – 4.3(I=Picc)2.B-cl – Timp – 3Perc – 2Hp – Pf/Cel – Str

Commissioned by the BBC for the 2011 Proms Season

First performed 2 September 2001, The Proms, Royal Albert Hall, London, BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Tadaaki Otaka.

EP 7800

Ricochets Between (2010) 11 minutes

Clarinet in B- / Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn in F, 2 Violins, Viola, Piano

Commissioned for the *At Lunch* series by Britten Sinfonia and Wigmore Hall.

First performed 14 December 2010, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, by members of the Britten Sinfonia

EP 72117

Vocal

An Amherst Bestiary

High Voice and Piano

Text: Emily Dickinson

Dedicated to Graham Johnson

EP 71019

Blist's Hill (2009) c. 3 minutes

Baritone and Piano

Text: Simon Christmas

Commissioned by NMC for the NMC Songbook

EP 71778

Cantos de Sonho (2013) 25 minutes

Soprano, Tenor and Piano Trio

Settings of poetry by Alexander Search (Fernando Pessoa) (1888-1935)

Dedicated to Ricardo da Silva Esteves

Commissioned for the 2013 Ludlow Weekend of English Song with funds provided by Finzi Friends and specifically by John Crumlish, Richard Hall, John Sammons and Adrian and Norma Williams

First performance 2 June 2013, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, Shropshire, UK, by Rowan Pierce (soprano), Nicholas Mulroy (tenor), Matthew Denton (violin), Emma Denton (cello) and Gavin Roberts (piano)

EP 72470

Coronach (1995) 8½ minutes

Mezzo-Soprano and Viola

Text: Olive Fraser

Commissioned by the BBC for the Fairest Isle Songbook

First performed 2 April 1995, Helen Lothian (mezzo-soprano), Simon Roland-Jones (viola)

EP 7992

The Country of Larks (2021) 9 minutes

Tenor, Horn and Piano

Text from Autumn Effect by Robert Louis Stevenson

1. Recitative

2. Walking song

3. Cloud and Sun

4. Lark Song

Commissioned by Oxford Lieder

Four Sonnets of John Clare (2002, revised 2015) 10 minutes

Baritone and Piano

1. Fame

2. The Death of Beauty

3. Memory

4. The Shepherd's Tree

Commissioned by Wigmore Hall, with funds made available by the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust. First performed by for Sir Thomas Allen and Graham Johnson on 16 July 2002 at Wigmore Hall.

EP 73506

Love is more thicker than forget (1997) 3 minutes

Soprano, Trumpet and Organ

Text: E.E. Cummings

EP 7985

Love songs of Amy Lowell (2011) c. 11 minutes

Voice and Piano

Text: Amy Lowell

Commissioned by Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts Ltd. with funding from the Arts Council of Wales

First performed 26 August 2011, Presteigne Festival, by Helen-Jane Howells (soprano) and Huw Watkins (piano)

EP 72206

Love Songs for Mary Joyce (2016) 35 minutes

Tenor and Piano

Text: John Clare

Commissioned by the Wigmore Hall with the support of André Hoffmann, President of the Fondation Hoffman and first performed by James Gilchrist (tenor) and Anna Tilbrook (piano) at the Wigmore Hall, 20 September, 2016
EP 72960

Swift Partitions (1998) 13 minutes

Baritone and Piano

Poems by Emily Dickinson

EP 73505

There is a morn by men unseen (2002, revised 2015) 3 minutes 30 seconds

Baritone and Piano

Poems by Emily Dickinson

Commissioned by William Lyne CBE, AM in memory of Jonathan Webb
First performed by Gerald Finley (baritone) and Julius Drake (piano) in the Director's Festival Gala concert at Wigmore Hall on 10 May 2003
EP 73507

Choral**Autumn Songs** (2021) 25 minutes

Soprano, Baritone, Children's Voices and Piano

Text: Ted Hughes

The Leaves; The Seven Sorrows; The Defenders; There came a day; The Stag

Commissioned by Little Missenden Festival

First performed on 9 October 2021 at Little Missenden Church

Body of Water (2012) 16 minutes

Solo Tenor, Chorus, Brass Quintet (2 Tpt, Hn, Trbn, Tuba) and Organ

Text: Simon Christmas

Commissioned by JAM in memory of Russ Patrick.

First performed 22 March 2012, St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, by the Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge and Onyx Brass conducted by Nicholas Cleobury.

EP 72264

Church Music (2011) 6 minutes*Text: George Herbert*

Anthem for choir and organ commissioned for the Choirbook for the Queen

EP 73313

Fantasy on O Waly, Waly (2007)Composed for *Of Water and Tears*

Chorus and Ensemble

Of Water and Tears first performed in The Jerwood Studio, Glyndebourne Festival Opera as part of the Jerwood Chorus Development Scheme, with soloists from the Glyndebourne Chorus.

EP 72102

Fern Hill (2014) 18 minutes

Soprano Chorus, Flute, Viola & Harp

Poem by Dylan Thomas

Commissioned by Rhian Hutchings for Welsh National Opera.

EP 72566

I sing of a maiden (2013) 5 minutes

Treble Solo and SATB a cappella

Text: Anon

EP 72586

The Promised Child (2018) 4 minutes

SATB and Piano

Words by Stephen Plaice

Commissioned by InterOpera

First performed by The Ushaw Choir on 13 October 2018, at Pugin Chapel, Ushaw College, Durham
EP 73286**Reach for Andromeda** (1995) c. 5½ minutes

SSAATTBB

Text: Olive Fraser

Dedicated to Sir Michael Tippett

Commissioned by Paul Spicer and the Finzi Singers

First performed 30 April 1995, Wigmore Hall, by the Finzi Singers, conducted by Paul Spicer
EP 71031**Sea and Stars** (2012) c. 25 minutes

Soprano, Baritone, Chorus and Orchestra

Text: Simon Christmas

Commissioned by Ealing Choral Society as part of its 50th Anniversary season

First performed 16 June 2012, Cadogan Hall, London, by Ealing Choral Society
EP 72282**So gently darkness falls** (2014) 12 minutes*Words by John Masefield*

Treble Solo-SATB Chorus-2.2.2.2-2.1.0.0-Timp-Perc-Hp-Str

Commissioned by Warwick School in celebration of the School's 1100th Anniversary in 2014
EP 72553**Song's Eternity** (2002) c. 8 minutes

SSATB Choir and Organ

Text: John Clare

Commissioned by the Musician's Benevolent Fund in the name of Sir Thomas Armstrong

First performed 20 November 2002, Westminster Cathedral, by the combined choirs of Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey under the direction of Martin Baker.

EP 7886

Sorrowful Songes (2012) 10 minutes

SATB Choir

Text: Thomas Wyatt

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3

First performed 23 July 2012, Cadogan Hall as part of the BBC Proms, by Tenebrae, conducted by Nigel Short.
EP 72301**Vertue** (1988) 8 minutes

SATB Chorus and Organ

Text: George Herbert

Commissioned by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

First performed June 1988, Clare College Chapel, Cambridge, by Clare College Choir and Tim Brown
EP 7990

Opera/Music Theatre

Dolffin (2007) c. 40 minutes

Percussion, harp and children's chorus

Libretto: Gwyneth Lewis

Commissioned by Welsh National Opera MAX in 2006, the second in the WNO trilogy *Land, Sea and Sky*.
EP 72068

Followers (2011) c. 60 minutes

Cast of 3 (Soprano, Tenor, Baritone)

Libretto: Simon Christmas

Chamber ensemble (Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Cello, Harpsichord/Piano, Percussion)

Commissioned as part of Julian Philip's doctoral award as Composer in Residence with Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the University of Sussex, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme and the Alan and Karen Grieve Charitable Trust.

First performed 21 August 2011, Organ Room, Glyndebourne by Gabriela Istoc (soprano), Andrew Dickinson (tenor), Alexander Hargreaves (baritone), Alice Jones, (cello), Fred Beer (percussion), Lucy Downer (clarinet), and Geoffrey Paterson (Music Director & Harpsichord, Piano & Keyboard)
EP 72101

Good Intentions (2012) 70 minutes

An Operetta

Libretto: Simon Christmas

Commissioned by W11 Opera

First performed 15 December 2012, Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, London, by W11 Opera
EP 72401c

How the Whale Became (2013) c. 90 minutes

Opera - after the creation tales of Ted Hughes

Libretto: Edward Kemp, based on The Dreamfighter and other creation tales by Ted Hughes

Commissioned by the Royal Opera House

First performed 6 December 2013, Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House, London, directed by Natalie Abrahami
EP 72523

Knight Crew (2010) Act 1: 70 minutes, Act 2: 55 minutes

Cast of 6–Chorus of 50 Young Performers–Boy's Chorus–Chorus of 15

Professional players (Flt–Sax–Bsn, Tpt–Hn–Tbn, 2Perc, 2Gtr, Keyboards, 2Vln–vla–vlc–db)

Youth Orchestra (2Flt–2Ob–3Cl–Sax–Bsn, 3Tpt–3Hn–2Tbn–Tba, Strings 11.9.7.5.3, 3Perc)

Libretto: Nicky Singer

Dedicated to Katie Tearle

Commissioned by Glyndebourne Opera House in 2007

First performed March 2010, Glyndebourne main stage
EP 71995

Looking West (2022) 75 minutes

Cantata for Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Actors and Ensemble (8 Players)

Libretto by Rebecca Hurst

Flute (doubling Alto & Piccolo), Clarinet (doubling Bass Clarinet), Harp, Percussion, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
Sound (seven sound cues)

Specially commissioned by the Nova Music Trust and the Presteigne Festival to commemorate the 150th anniversary year of Ralph Vaughan Williams with generous funding from the RVW Trust and the John S Cohen Foundation

First performances

30 July 2022 at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Pickering as part of the 2022 Ryedale Festival

25 August 2022, Presteigne Festival, St Andrew's Church, Presteigne

EP 73672 Full score

EP 73672a Vocal score

EP 73673b Libretto

Save the Diva (2011) 15 minutes

A Street Opera

Libretto: Simon Christmas

Accordion, Trombone, Soprano, Baritone, Street Performer

Commissioned by The Opera Group

The Tale of Januarie (2016) 120 minutes

Actor-S,3Mz.2T.3Bar.B Soli-Full Chorus

Orchestra 3(I&III=Picc).2.Ca.2.B-cl.2.Cbsn-4.3.3.1-Timp-3Perc-Hp-Pf-Org-Str

On stage: Flute, Viola, Harp

Stage Band: 3 Bagpipes (doubling Fiddle, 2 Recorders), Percussion (2 players)

Commissioned by the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, with funding from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the 'Cross-Language Dynamics' OWRI Project led by the University of Manchester

Libretto: Stephen Plaice, based on *The Merchant's Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer

First performed on 27 February 2017 at Silk Street Theatre, Guildhall School conducted by Dominic Wheeler

EP 73017

Varjak Paw (2008)*Libretto: Kit Hesketh-Harvey*

Commissioned by The Opera Group

First performed September 2008, Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House, London, by The Opera Group, John Fulljames (director)

EP 71751

Wild Cat (2007) c. 50 minutes

Opera in One Act

Libretto: Berlie Docherty

Adult singers, children's chorus and small ensemble (piano-triple wind-percussion)

Commissioned by WNO MAX

First performed 25 April 2007, Galari Caernarfon, then on tour to Holyhead, Harlech, Mold, Cilycwm and the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

EP 71016

The Yellow Sofa (2009) c. 70 minutes

Chamber Opera in One Act

Libretto: Edward Kemp

Cast of 10 and Chamber Ensemble (6vln.2vla.2vlc.1db-Piano-Guitar-Portugese Guitar)

Dedicated to Ricardo Da Silva Esteves

First performed 20 August 2009, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, with the Britten Sinfonia, conducted by Leo McFall, directed by Freddie Wake-Walker

EP 71987



For further information:

Leipzig

C. F. Peters Ltd. & Co. KG

Talstraße 10

D-04103 Leipzig

Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 989 792 0

✉ stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com

New York

C. F. Peters Corporation

70–30 80th Street

Glendale NY 11385

USA

☎ + (1) 718 416 7800

✉ gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com

London

Peters Edition Ltd

2–6 Baches Street

London N1 6DN

UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4000

✉ newmusic@editionpeters.com