



# 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 and busy young composers. His music has been performed across the world at major festivals and venues including the Proms, the Tanglewood Music Festival, Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne and the Wigmore Hall, by international artists including Gerald Finley, Dawn Upshaw, Sir Thomas Allen, the Vertavo String Quartet, the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra and BBC orchestras.

With a particular affinity for music for voice Philips has been critically acclaimed for song settings of e.e. cummings, Dylan Thomas, Emily Dickinson and Arthur Rimbaud among others. His choral music is included in the Choirbook for the Queen (*Church Music*) and has been commissioned for the BBC Proms (*Sorrowfull Songes*).

Following the success of his 1999 orchestral work *Strange Seas*, commissioned by the Britten Sinfonia and later performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the BBC Proms commissioned *Out of Light*, a symphonic poem premièred at the Royal Albert Hall by the BBC NOW in 2001. It was revised in 2005 for the Tanglewood Music Festival.

As Glyndebourne Opera's first ever Composer in Residence, Philips completed two chamber operas in 2007; *Of Water and Tears* and *Followers*, a site-specific promenade opera with a libretto by Simon Christmas. In August 2009 Philips collaborated with librettist Edward Kemp on a further one-act chamber opera for Glyndebourne, *The Yellow Sofa*. *Knight Crew* was commissioned by Glyndebourne and was critically acclaimed following its première run in March 2010. The year-long development of *Knight Crew* was filmed by BBC Television and the resulting series, *Gareth goes to Glyndebourne*, aired in June 2010. Since 2007 Philips has also worked with The Opera Group, Welsh National Opera and W11 opera on *Varjak Paw*, chamber operas *Dolffin* and *Wild Cat*, and *Good Intentions* respectively. Philips's most recent opera was *How the Whale Became*, another collaboration with Edward Kemp, based on Ted Hughes's *The Dreamfighter and other creation tales* and written for the Royal Opera House's Christmas 2013/14 season.

Philips has also written two full-length ballets for Michael Corder and English National Ballet; a ballet based on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* was followed by *The Snow Queen* in 2007 based on the music of Prokofiev.

Ballet and opera are natural progressions for Philips, who already has an impressive track-record in composing for the theatre. He has enjoyed a particularly fruitful artistic partnership with director Michael Grandage. Their production of *As You Like It* (Lyric Hammersmith/Crucible Theatre) won the South Bank Theatre Award in 2001.

A vital force in education, Philips took up the post of Joint Head of Composition at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in September 2004. He has tutored at Cambridge University, and led innovative adult learning programmes at the Wigmore Hall and for the Orchestra of the Swan. In 2007 Philips was made Honorary Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

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## Instrumental

### **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 &amp; 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

**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(II&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







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