

Cheryl Frances-Hoad - Biography

Cheryl Frances-Hoad was born in Essex in 1980 and received her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (BA (Hons) Music (double 1st), MPhil with Distinction (Composition)) and Kings College London (PhD, Composition). Her music has been described as “like a declaration of faith in the eternal verities of composition” (*The Times*), with “a voice overflowing not only with ideas, but also with the discipline and artistry necessary to harness them” (*The Scotsman*).

Recently chosen to be a featured composer on BBC Radio 3’s ‘Composer of the Week’ (‘Five under 35, March 2015), her works have garnered many awards, from the BBC Lloyds Bank Composer of the Year award when she was just 15 to more recently the Mendelssohn Scholarship, The Bliss Prize, The Cambridge Composers Competition, The Robert Helps International Composition Prize (USA), The Sun River Prize (China), The International String Orchestra Composition Prize (Malta), The RPS Composition Prize, and the BASCA British Composer Awards (where she became the youngest composer to win two awards in any year for *Psalm 1* and *Stolen Rhythm* in 2010). She has received two awards from the PRS Women Make Music Fund (for *The Madness Industry* (a brass quintet for Onyx Brass) and *Sailing to the Marvellous* (a ninety minute oratorio for four choirs and ensemble for Bridlington Priory) and has held the posts of Leverhulme Musician in Residence (at the University of Cambridge Psychiatry Department (2008)), Rambert Composer in Residence (2012/13), and Opera North/Leeds University Cultural Fellow in Opera Related Arts (2010/12).

Cheryl's third CD of chamber orchestral music (featuring Nicholas Daniel, David Cohen, Ivana Gavric and the Rambert Orchestra conducted by Paul Hoskins) will be released on the Champs Hill Records label this June. Her first two CD's received rave reviews with *The Glory Tree* being selected as “Chamber Music Choice” by BBC Music Magazine in October 2011. Her works include a Piano Concerto, 'Cello Concerto (*Katharsis*), three piano trios, a ninety minute opera about the life of Amy Johnston (*Amy's Last Dive* with librettist Adam Strickson), and several large scale works involving young musicians (*A Young Person's Guide to Composition* was premiered by the London Chamber Orchestra and 150 children conducted by Christopher Warren Green in May 2014). 2015 saw Cheryl's BBC Proms debut with a new work for the Cardinall's Musick entitled *From the Beginning of the World*. It received rave reviews in the press, including the following from *The Arts Desk*:

"Period specialists' superb account of Cheryl Frances-Hoad's ravishing world premiere overshadows Tallis.

...What a sound. Frances-Hoad drenched each phrase in dramatic expression – wonderment and horror, principally – of the most ravishing intensity. Dissonant chords of breathtaking complexity squirmed and spun, while exposed vocal lines, pitched and balanced perfectly by this core of singers, weaved an astonishing tapestry of vocal and emotional colours." Matthew Wright

Future projects include second works for both the Schubert ensemble and the LCO, song cycles for both Leeds and Oxford Lieder Festivals in 2016 and a new full length evensong for Peterborough Cathedral.

Cheryl's music is published by [Cadenza Music](#).

www.cherylfranceshoad.co.uk