

Commissions for the Twelve Days of Christmas 2020

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About

The **Corvus Consort** looks forward to presenting “**Twelve Composers Composing**”, a project of new commissions for the Twelve Days of Christmas 2020.

Twelve of the UK’s most exciting young composers have been commissioned to write twelve new miniature works based on the text of the well-known song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”.

Taking the song’s familiar list of gifts as their texts, the new works will be 30-second miniatures for a choir of twelve voices, and will feature in twelve short videos to be released on the Twelve Days of Christmas – starting on Christmas Day and running until 5th January 2021.

Purpose

The Consort is keen to remain active over the festive period, despite having all our planned Christmas performances cancelled due to COVID-19.

This project aims to support young professional musicians – both composers and singers – by providing them with an artistic opportunity at this very difficult time. We’re thrilled to be using this opportunity to produce new music, and look forward to working with such a talented array of young composers. We hope that, through this project, we will build close relationships between Consort and composers, leading to further collaborations in future.

In the run-up to Christmas, we will be introducing our twelve composers and twelve singers via a social media advent calendar, with posts featuring one artist each day.

Fundraising

We are running a Crowdfunding campaign to make this project possible.

The money raised will go towards the various costs associated with the project, the largest of which being the all-important fees to the young composers and singers who are taking part.

Donate here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/twelve-composers-composing/>

10% of all money raised by the crowdfunding campaign will go to **Crisis this Christmas**. Crisis works throughout the year to tackle homelessness, and their annual Christmas fundraiser helps those members of our society most in need of support, at a time of year which is all about community and companionship – “no one should be homeless and alone this Christmas”.

Supporting



Composers



1st Day of Christmas | *"a partridge in a pear tree"*

Joanna Ward



Joanna is a composer, performer, and researcher from Newcastle upon Tyne, currently doing a Masters at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Joanna is interested in experimenting with scores and with sound, centring collaboration, subjectivity, multiplicity and playfulness in her practice. Her compositional practice ranges across conventional forms/media, multimedia work in collaboration with creators from other artforms, and experimental electronic/ambient music. Her approach is inherently political, considering how to think along with contemporary critical theory in her creative practices. As a vocalist, she specialises in contemporary and experimental repertoires, as well as improvisation and collaboration. Joanna's research around decolonising music higher educations has recently been published in TEMPO New Music Journal.

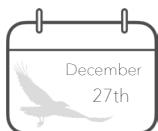


2nd Day of Christmas | *"two turtle doves"*

Nathan James Dearden



Nathan James Dearden is a composer of concert music and mixed media, whose work has been described as "hauntingly beautiful" (Media Wales). His music regularly features in concerts across the UK and overseas, including at the Cheltenham Music Festival, Dartington International Festival, CROSSROADS International New Music Festival and Vale of Glamorgan Festival of Music. He has recently collaborated with Making Music UK and Swansea Philharmonic Choir for a BBC Radio 3 broadcast of his 3 postcards, created a series of choral 'virtual memories' with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and is a featured composer as part of Helen Charlston's The Isolation Songbook for release on Delphian Records. In May 2020, he was awarded the inaugural Acapela Studio Award for exceptional Welsh composers from the Welsh Music Guild.



3rd Day of Christmas | *"three french hens"*

Héloïse Werner



Recently described by The Times as "quickly becoming a latter-day Cathy Berberian or Meredith Monk", French-born and London-based soprano and composer Héloïse Werner is one of the 31 under 31 BBC Radio 3 Young Stars 2020. She was the recipient of the Michael Cuddigan Trust Award 2018, Linda Hirst Contemporary Vocal Prize 2017 and one of the four shortlisted nominees in the Young Artist category of the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards 2017. She is soprano and co-director for contemporary quartet The Hermes Experiment (soprano, clarinet, harp and double bass), whose debut album HERE WE ARE is out now on Delphian Records.



4th Day of Christmas | *"four calling birds"*

Ella Hohnen-Ford



Ella Hohnen-Ford, a recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Music with First Class Honours, is carving out her place in the London's vibrant improvised-music scene. Equally at home as a lyricist, performer and composer, Ella appears in a wide variety of musical projects, from folk and free music, to traditional jazz, British contemporary jazz and singer-songwriter music. Ella has developed an unorthodox and genre-defying approach to writing and interpreting music.



5th Day of Christmas | *"five gold rings"*

Anna Semple



Anna graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2018, and is now a postgraduate student of Composition at Guildhall School of Music and Drama (generously supported by the HR Taylor Trust), studying with Sylvia Lim and Matthew Kaner. Her work explores embodied processes of writing and performing, and increasingly uses visual art as a stimulus for the creation of sound. Recent commissions include works for the Royal Opera House, The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge, The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Mad Song and the Edington Festival 2021. She has worked with a wide variety of artists including vocal consort Exaudi and solo accordionist Miloš Milivojević via Psappha's 'Composing for' scheme.



6th Day of Christmas | *"six geese a-laying"*

Alex Ho



Alex Ho is a British-Chinese composer based in London. He has had pieces performed/commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Radio 3, Royal Opera House, National Opera Studio, Music Theatre Wales, London Sinfonietta, Roderick Williams, and the choirs of Christ Church Cathedral and Merton College, Oxford. Alex was winner of the Arthur Bliss Prize in 2017, one of Sound and Music's 'New Voices 2018', a Help Musicians UK Fusion Fund Artist in 2019, and winner of the George Butterworth Award 2020. He is studying for a doctorate at the Royal College of Music with a full AHRC scholarship (LAHP Studentship supported by RCM).

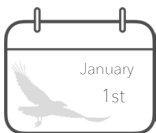


7th Day of Christmas | *"seven swans a-swimming"*

Harry Baker



Harry Baker is an award-winning pianist and composer passionate about jazz, classical and improvised music. A key player on the UK jazz and classical scenes, Harry has performed at the 606 Club, Pizza Express Jazz Club, Wigmore Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. As an in-demand composer and arranger of choral and vocal music, Harry has written compositions for the Choirs of Merton and Magdalen College Oxford, SANSARA chamber choir, and the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. In January 2020, he released his debut album, 'The Floating Boy', a suite for big band and voices performed by the Oxford University Jazz Orchestra and vocal group The Oxford Gargoyles.

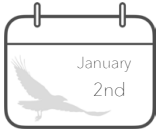


8th Day of Christmas | *"eight maids a-milking"*

Carol J Jones



Carol J Jones (b.1993) is a composer of choral, chamber and orchestral music. Originally trained as a dancer, she read music at Cardiff University and is currently studying for a DPhil in Music Composition at the University of Oxford, researching transcriptions of found sound in nature. Her unique approach to composition encompasses everything from neurons firing to supernova explosions. Her music has been broadcast on BBC One, BBC Radio 3 and BBC World Service and has been performed across the UK.

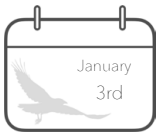


9th Day of Christmas | *"nine ladies dancing"*

Ben Nobuto



Ben Nobuto is a British/Japanese composer, pianist and producer from Kent. With a style described as 'postmodern' by Nonclassical, his music explores themes of attention and fragmentation, often drawing from internet culture and popular idioms in a playful, ironic and surreal manner. His flexible, pluralistic approach to music-making has seen him work with a range of artists, from ensembles such as Ligeti Quartet, Invoke Quartet and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group to interdisciplinary artists, documentary-makers and video-game developers. He is currently a 'New Creative' for the BBC and was selected as a 'UK New Artist' for UKNA's Leicester City Takeover 2021.



10th Day of Christmas | *"ten lords a-leaping"*

Joe Bates



Joe Bates is a composer and curator making music at the edge of genres. His first musical love was for the orchestral classics of the Twentieth Century; he spent his teenage years aping Bartók and Ligeti (he even has a Bartók tattoo). At university, he became involved in rock and pop, playing in a drag band and running a mixed-genre music night, Filthy Lucre. Joe's music is born in the collision of these influences, embracing both orchestral music and synth-heavy electronics. He writes for himself, as a solo electronic performer, and for others, using classical notation. His music is inspired by composers from Kaija Saariaho to Giacinto Scelsi, songwriters like Fiona Apple and D'Angelo, writers like Ursula Le Guin and Derek Parfait, and artists like Hilma Af Klint and Abu Al-Hasan.

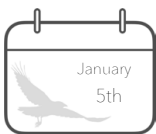


11th Day of Christmas | *"eleven pipers piping"*

Derri Joseph Lewis



Derri Joseph Lewis (b.1997) is a prize-winning Welsh composer – his music has been performed by such musicians as BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Gould Piano Trio, and bass-violist Liam Byrne. Derri has a deep passion for vocal music across a variety of languages; in 2021 his duet 'A Moment' will be featured on Helen Charlston's 'Isolation Songbook' CD released by Delphian Records. Derri's 'Cane fires from the cabin of a plane' – a song cycle with text by American poet Emily Bishai – will be performed at Ludlow English Song Weekend 2021.



12th Day of Christmas | *"twelve drummers drumming"*

Shruthi Rajasekar



Shruthi Rajasekar is an Indian-American composer and vocalist exploring identity, community, and joy. Hailed by The Guardian as a composer "who will enrich your life," Shruthi creates intersectional music that draws from her training in the Carnatic (South Indian classical) and Western classical idioms. Honours include the KHORIKOS ORTUS International Award and the Global Women in Music Award presented by the United Nations & Donne in Musica. Recent projects include commissions from Hertfordshire Chorus, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Psappha, and the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Shruthi's music has appeared on Spotify's Official Classical Releases Playlist, BBC Radio 3, and broadcast stations across the USA.

The **Corvus Consort** is a vocal ensemble based in the UK.

Founded and directed by Freddie Crowley, the group draws its members from a pool of young professionals in the early stages of their singing careers.

The consort enjoys musical versatility, performing a wide variety of genres and styles, ranging from the Renaissance to the present day. The ensemble is also flexible in size and forces, so it can be carefully tailored to each particular performance context.

Starting life in 2018, we rebranded as the Corvus Consort in July 2020.



line-up of singers for this project

soprano

Sam Cobb
Hannah Cox
Hannah Littleton

tenor

Jack Harberd
Matthew Mckinney
Zahid Siddiqui

alto

Izzi Blain
Helena Cooke
Anna Semple

bass

George Cook
Tom Lowen
Joel Nulsen



Representation: Tashmina Artists