



Russell Hepplewhite

Composer

Russell Hepplewhite, recently named one of the Evening Standard's *1000 Most Influential People in London*, has won critical acclaim for his ground-breaking operas for children including *Shackleton's Cat*, *Silver Electra*, *Borka the Goose with No Feathers* and *Laika the Spacedog*, which recently was seen in a new production at **Theater Fribourg** in a co-production with the **Comique in Paris**. *Laika*, originally a new production with **English Touring Opera**, has also won two major awards at the prestigious **Armel International Opera Festival** and then toured to **Avignon Opera**. In the upcoming seasons, *Laika* will have another new production in Germany, and he will debut a large scale education production, *Climat*, for **Opera National de Montpellier**. Russell will be the **Farnham Youth Choir** composer in residence this season.

Outside of children's opera, his choral music is published with **Banks Music Publishing** and he is the resident composer for **Arcubus Ensemble**. His music appears on CD releases for labels including **Regent Records** and has been featured on **BBC Television and Radio**, as well as being performed at venues including the **Royal Albert Hall**, the **Wigmore Hall**, the **Library Theatre Luton**, the **Purcell Room** and the **Queen Elizabeth Hall**. He has received numerous awards, including the **PRSF David Bedford Award** and two major prizes from the **Armel International Opera Festival**.

Recent highlights include a song-cycle entitled *It was born of the Stars* for **Glyndebourne**, *Parallel*, an Olympics-inspired musical commissioned by the **Salisbury Playhouse**, two melodramas for narrator and piano for the actor Timothy West, and several instrumental and choral pieces which have been performed in concert series' and festivals, including the **King's Lynn Festival**, **European Opera Day**, **Denver Cathedral Concerts** and **Musiques à Pontorson** in France.

Russell is currently collaborating with various ensembles and soloists, including **Counterpoise**, **Svyati Duo**, **Contempo Ensemble**, all of whom have commissioned pieces to be performed or recorded over the next year.

Russell is also active as a pianist, teaches Composition and Musicianship at the **Royal College of Music** Junior Department and is an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He was awarded a scholarship to study composition and piano at the **Royal College of Music** following previous studies at **Chetham's School of Music**.