



# Russell Hepplewhite

Composer

Recently named as one of the Evening Standard's *1000 Most Influential People in London*, Russell Hepplewhite has won critical acclaim for his groundbreaking operas for children, including *Shackleton's Cat*, *Silver Electra*, *Borka the Goose with No Feathers* and *Laika the Spacedog*, which toured extensively as part of **English Touring Opera's** national tours. *Laika* has since won two major awards at the prestigious **Armel International Opera Festival** before a subsequent transfer to **Avignon Opera**. Russell has also composed a new opera for **W11 Opera** in London for 9-18 year old children and young people to perform, as well as a composing a new musical *Moonfleet* for the **Salisbury Playhouse**.

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**.