

# **STELLA JOCKEL YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION**

organised by

**SHEFFIELD PHILHARMONIC CHORUS**

in association with

**CLASSICAL SHEFFIELD**

**COMPETITION ENTRY PACK**

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and Classical Sheffield seek submissions from composers in the early stages of their careers for the Stella Jockel Young Composers Competition, part of Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend 2023.

The competition is named for Stella Jockel, a former Sheffield teacher and vicar's wife who sang alto with Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for many years. Part of Stella's generous legacy to the Chorus is being used to fund the competition. The aim is to support the creation and performance of new choral repertoire and to encourage and support young people from Sheffield who are studying seriously for, or starting out on, a career in music composition and/or performance.

The competition is open to young people aged 18 to 35, who currently live or study in Sheffield, or who lived, were born, or were educated there. The requirement is for a short choral work for a mixed choir, to be sung unaccompanied in at least four parts - soprano, alto, tenor, bass.

The text has been commissioned from award-winning poet Katharine Towers, who won the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for *The Floating Man* and was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize for *The Remedies*.

The winning work will be performed at a special prize-winning event on the final evening of the Classical Sheffield Weekend Festival, Sunday 19 March 2023. This will be part of the festival finale event which is a performance of Mahler's magnificent 2<sup>nd</sup> symphony by Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallam Sinfonia, Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and Hallam Choral Society, all members of Classical Sheffield, at Sheffield City Hall. The performance and presentation of prizes will form the first half of this event which will bring the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary festival to a spectacular close.

George Nicholson, Emeritus Professor of Composition at the University of Sheffield, has agreed to head the panel of judges, which includes the Music Directors from each of the two choirs and from Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra. The winning entries will be announced in January 2023.

The closing date is 31 December 2022.

## Eligibility

The competition is open to young musicians aged between 18 and 35 inclusive, who were born in Sheffield or who study, live or work, or who used to study, live or work in Sheffield.

## Deadline

31 December 2022

## Composition brief

- An original choral work for a large (180 singers) mixed choir to sing, unaccompanied, in at least 4 parts (SATB).
- Duration at least 4 minutes and under 10 minutes.
- Text to be used is 'Sheffield Nocturne' by ©2022Katharine Towers
- Works must be original, not premiered and not previously awarded before at any other competition.
- Arranged or adapted versions of previous works by the same composer and which have been already released or published won't be accepted.

## Application requirements

- Original choral score, to be sent as a pdf file. Each composition must be submitted with numbered pages. They must be legible, clear, without mistakes or amendments. The score must not be marked with the composer's name, or in any way that would enable the composer to be identified. A piano reduction may be included and would be useful but is not essential.
- Completed application form (download from [www.sheffieldphil.org/youngcomposer](http://www.sheffieldphil.org/youngcomposer))
- 250-word maximum biography in DOC or PDF format
- Photograph (jpeg or tif file)

## Electronic submissions

[youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org)

## **Notification**

Prize-winners will be announced to the public on 19 March 2023. Shortlisted candidates will be publicised in the new year, and prize-winners notified by the end of January 2023. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with brief feedback.

## **Prizes**

### 1st prize

- £1,500.
- Performance of the winning work by Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and Hallam Choral Society at the Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend finale concert at Sheffield City Hall on Sunday 19 March 2023.
- Four free tickets for the Mahler 2 concert at the City Hall.

### 2nd prize

- £1,000
- Four free tickets for the Mahler 2 concert at the City Hall.

### 3rd prize

- £500
- Two free tickets for the Mahler 2 concert at the City Hall.

## **Judges**

George Nicholson, Emeritus Professor of Composition, University of Sheffield

Darius Battiwalla, Music Director Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

George Morton, Music Director of Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra

Clara Rundell, Music Director of Hallam Choral Society

### **Competition rules**

1. Submissions must meet the listed Composition Brief and Application Requirements.
2. Materials will not be returned.
3. The composition will be the property of the composer; however, first performance rights are granted to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and Hallam Choral Society.
4. Applicants waive all rights for publication, broadcasting, and recording of the premiere performance.
5. The decisions of the judges are final.
6. The judges reserve the right not to award one or more prizes if the standard is not sufficiently high, commensurate with the value of the prizes.
7. Applicants must only use the text 'Sheffield Nocturne' ©2022 Katherine Towers; this poem is copyright and may not be used for any other purpose.
8. A condition of entry is that submitted biographies and photographs may be used in the publication of shortlisted applicants.
9. The judges, Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, Hallam Choral Society, Classical Sheffield and Sheffield City Hall cannot be held responsible for any damages, claims, liabilities, and costs, or losses of any kind or nature whatsoever, which may in any way arise from the rehearsals, performance and recording of the competition entries.
10. Applicants accept the above rules unconditionally and without reservation.

## FAQs

### 1. When is the competition deadline?

Entries must be submitted up to midnight on 31 December 2022.

### 2. Is there an age limit?

Entrants must be between 18 and 35 years of age, inclusive.

### 3. Can I submit more than one entry?

You may submit up to two entries. Each must be submitted separately accompanied by a fresh application form.

### 4. Can I send you my music at other times of the year?

Compositions can only be considered in the context of the competition; competition email contacts will be disabled following the finale concert on 19 March 2023.

### 5. What type/genre of music can I submit?

The competition is part of the Classical Sheffield Festival, and choral compositions should be in keeping with the aim to perform the winning work at the festival finale. We recommend you submit your best work.

### 6. Will the scores be anonymised before being shared with judges?

Yes. For this reason, submitted compositions must not include the name of the composer, nor any other marking that could reveal their identity.

### 7. Can I submit my entry by post?

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept postal submissions. Please send all requirements electronically, to [youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org)

### 8. How many prize-winners will be selected?

There will be three prize-winners, winning £1,500, £1,000, and £500.

**9. Who will perform the winning work on 19 March 2023?**

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus has organised the competition in conjunction with Classical Sheffield and will perform the winning composition alongside Hallam Choral Society at the finale of Classical Weekend Festival in March 2023. There will be at least 150 singers performing the winning work.

**10. I am not a UK citizen, can I apply?**

Yes, as long as you have lived, studied or worked in Sheffield.

**11. How much does it cost to apply?**

Competition entry is free.

**12. Can I claim travel expenses to attend the performance?**

The competition organisers do not pay expenses, whether for travel to attend performances or for any other purpose.

**13. When will applicants be notified?**

Applicants will be notified by the end of January 2023.

**14. Can I ask for feedback about my submission?**

All entries will receive feedback from the judges as part of the notification procedure. Judges are unable to respond to requests for additional feedback.

For further enquiries please contact [youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:youngcomposer@sheffieldphil.org)

## Stella Jockel

Stella was born in Sheffield in 1932. She grew up and lived in the Hillsborough and Wadsley Bridge areas until her late 40s and worked as a primary school teacher in the city until taking early retirement.



She sang in her local church choir, first at Wadsley Bridge, then, after marrying Alan Jockel, at All Saints Totley where he was the vicar. Stella became the church choir mistress and really enjoyed working with young voices as well as encouraging young organists. In her later years she also helped with music at Beauchief Abbey.

Singing was her main passion, but she also loved travelling, birdwatching, walking and the countryside, and she lent her support to organisations concerned with protecting nature into the future.

Stella sang as an alto with the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for over 60 years, joining up in 1952 aged just 20. One of her first concerts was Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, with Kathleen Ferrier and the Hallé orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli at the new Festival Hall in London. This work became her favourite piece of music, and she sang it with the Chorus in 1964, on the highly-acclaimed Warner Classics recording with Dame Janet Baker and the Hallé orchestra and choir, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.

More latterly Stella was involved in several trips made by the Chorus to Bochum, which was twinned with Sheffield after the Second World War. She welcomed and helped with hosting choirs from Bochum on their return visit to Sheffield. The relationship with Bochum meant a lot in those post-war years, and has continued ever since, with joint performances as recently as 2021 when the Bochum choir sang *Messiah* with the Chorus in Sheffield City Hall.

Stella retired from the Chorus in 2013 due to health issues affecting her balance and died in 2020, aged 88. It is entirely fitting that part of her generous bequest to her beloved Chorus will be used to support young composers via this competition. She would have been thrilled.

### **George Nicholson**



George Nicholson is Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Sheffield, having held the post of Head of Composition there between 1996 and 2020. During that time, he regularly conducted the University Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and New Music Ensemble, making use of every available opportunity to promote new work by emerging student composers alongside classic repertoire pieces and to foster and encourage the talent of young solo performers and conductors. He is Director of the Sheffield Lydian Singers and President of the Sheffield Bach Society, and has also acted as their conductor for a number of concerts during the last year.

In his various roles as pianist, chamber musician and conductor, George Nicholson has developed an extremely wide range of musical interests, and his repertoire extends from Tallis to Boulez and beyond. His list of original published compositions now numbers around a hundred, including a flute concerto commissioned by James Galway and a cello concerto for Moray Welsh, five string quartets, and a variety of other chamber works, vocal pieces and piano music. Recent works include a new piano trio for the Leonore Trio.

### **Darius Battiwalla**

Darius is music director of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. He prepares the choir for visiting orchestras and conductors, and has conducted performances with the Halle, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Northern Sinfonia and Manchester Camerata. Since he took over, the choir has performed from memory for the first time and has appeared at the Proms and on Chandos recordings with the BBC Philharmonic. He recently directed the Chorus with Black Dyke Band in premiere recordings of the brass arrangement of Rutter's *Gloria*, Paul Mealar's new



work *Paradise*, and in a CD of Christmas music which included several of his own arrangements.

He is a regular guest chorusmaster or conductor with choirs such as the Northern Sinfonia Chorus, Leeds Philharmonic Chorus, Huddersfield Choral Society, CBSO chorus and Netherlands Radio Choir. He recently prepared the Lucerne Festival Academy for a performance of Berio's *Coro* conducted by Simon Rattle, and conducted the BBC Philharmonic in a CD of music for the BBC Young Choristers of the Year.

As Leeds City Organist, Darius gives regular recitals in the Town Hall. He has appeared as organ soloist with the Halle and London Philharmonic Orchestra, is a regular orchestral organist and pianist for the BBC Philharmonic and Halle orchestras, and gives organ recitals across the country.

### Clara Rundell



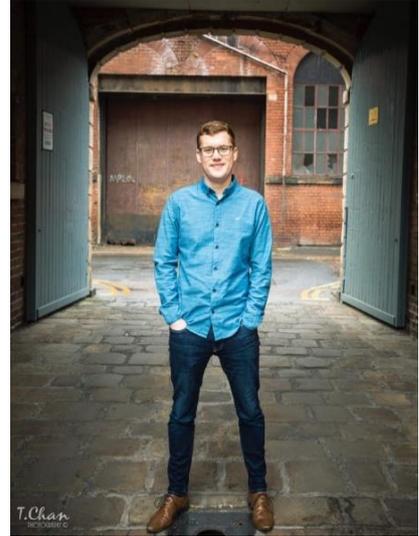
Clara Rundell graduated from the University of Manchester in 2019 where she received a first-class bachelor's degree in Music. She is now pursuing a career as a freelance musician based in Manchester. Clara is passionate about many different forms of music making and spends her time teaching, conducting and performing. At the University of Manchester, Clara studied conducting with Robert Guy and was selected for the prestigious conducting training programme. Through this programme Clara conducted a number of ensembles including Ad Solem Chamber Choir, the Cosmo Singers, the University of Manchester Chorus and the University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra.

In 2019 Clara was appointed as Musical Director for Hallam Choral Society and Knutsford Youth Orchestra and more recently became the Musical Director for the Manchester Philharmonic Choir and Stockport Youth Orchestra.

Clara was a member of the Halle Youth Orchestra for many years and went on to study the cello with Jennifer Langridge at Manchester University where she was principal cellist of the University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra. Clara still performs with the Eskandari String Quartet and a number of ensembles in and around Manchester.

### George Morton

George Morton is a conductor and arranger based in Sheffield, UK. He is the Musical Director of the Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra and regularly works with the Picture House Orchestra and Babylon Orchester Berlin. This season he makes his conducting debuts with the Orchestra of Opera North, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, and Vaasa City Orchestra (Finland). He'll also return to the Roma Tre Orchestra for concerts in May 2023. He has appeared as Guest Conductor with ensembles including Northern Ballet Sinfonia, Covent Garden Sinfonia, Hallam Sinfonia, and, Sounds of the Engine House.



George's arrangements and reductions have been performed to great acclaim at venues across the world and are published by Universal Edition, Schott Music, Boosey & Hawkes, and Novello & Co. George is the founder and director of Steel City Music Publishing, an independent publishing house that specialises in producing arrangements, orchestrations and transcriptions for chamber orchestras and ensembles.

### Katharine Towers



Katharine Towers is a poet who was born in London and has lived in the Peak District for over 30 years. Her work reflects her interest in the natural world and her love of music and has been read on BBC Radios 3 and 4.

She has published three full collections with Picador and a pamphlet *The Violin Forest* with HappenStance Press in 2019. Her first collection *The Floating Man* (2010) won the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize and her second *The Remedies* (2016) was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. Her most recent 2021 collection *Oak* (about the life of an oak tree) was longlisted for The Laurel Prize for nature

poetry and was a Poetry Book of the Month in The Guardian. She also writes a blog about Virginia Woolf. Her sequence of poems about the composer Gerald Finzi is to be published next year. Katharine grew up singing in amateur choirs and has sung with the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for several years.

### Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus



Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus is South Yorkshire's foremost large mixed-voice chorus, performing regularly with leading orchestras including the Hallé, the BBC Philharmonic, the Northern Sinfonia and Manchester Camerata, as well as with internationally renowned conductors such as Gianandrea

Nosedà, Markus Poschner, Nicholas Kraemer and David Hill.

The Chorus performs with Orchestra in Residence the Hallé and acclaimed soloists as part of the Sheffield International Concert Season at Sheffield City Hall and at other venues around the United Kingdom. It has participated in The Proms on a number of occasions and has developed touring and performance links with the Philharmonischer Chor based in Bochum, one of Sheffield's twin towns in Germany, and with the Ensemble Vocal Perigueux based in Perigueux, France.

The Chorus presents a challenging and exciting programme under the patronage of BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny and acclaimed actor Samuel West, and the vibrant and inspiring leadership of its Music Director, Darius Battiwalla.

The Chorus is always keen to welcome new members in all voice parts, but especially tenors. If you love singing and would like to perform on stage with a large symphonic choir, you are welcome to try the Chorus out any Tuesday evening. Visit [www.sheffieldphil.org](http://www.sheffieldphil.org) for further details, and contact [newmembership2018@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:newmembership2018@sheffieldphil.org)

## Classical Sheffield

Classical Sheffield is a local charity committed to championing classical music-making and connecting music-makers across the city of Sheffield. With a vision of making '*more music in more places with more people*' its strategic goals are to strengthen and develop classical music-making in Sheffield and to enrich Sheffield's cultural vibrancy by shaping a high-quality classical music offer.



Members can advertise their events on a high-quality website that is a 'one-stop shop' with regards to classical music-making across the city, enabling anyone who is curious about classical music to find out more about what is on in the city and how to experience it.

Any person or group based in and around Sheffield who is committed to the development and celebration of classical music in its widest definition can become a member. In return for a small subscription fee, members are able to promote concerts, groups and organisations on the Classical Sheffield website, which has around 2,500 visitors per month. Their events are also included in weekly listing bulletins and feature in Classical Sheffield social media, and of course all members are able to participate in festivals and events.

Classical Sheffield encourages voluntary and young music-making groups across Sheffield to collaborate with one another and with a range of musicians, performing a diverse repertoire of classical works, old and new, conventional and innovative. It is delighted to support this new competition for young composers, and that the winning entry will be performed as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Festival Weekend. This three-day festival of classical music in venues across the city aims to attract over 10,000 audience members and promises to be as successful as the previous festivals. See [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlaq8i0BJ\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlaq8i0BJ_A) (note the penultimate underscore).