

BRITISH  
COMPOSER  
AWARDS



THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

BRITISH COMPOSER AWARDS



# RULES & GUIDELINES 2017

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## INTRODUCTION

The British Composer Awards were created by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) in 2003 and are sponsored by *PRS for Music*. They are presented in association with BBC Radio 3, which provides exclusive broadcast coverage of the Awards.

The Awards promote the art of composition, recognise the creative talent of composers and sound artists, and bring their music to a wider audience. They are unique in making contemporary music, jazz and sonic art the focus of their annual celebration.

Since 2016, the British Composer Awards also honour composers with awards recognising their contribution to British music. These awards are in the gift of the British Composer Awards Committee; which is a sub-committee of the main BASCA Board.

Winning works and recipients will be recognised by a presentation to the composer at the award ceremony and will be the focus of a BBC Radio 3 broadcast about the Awards.

## TIMETABLE

Tuesday 4 July 2017	Deadline for Entry
WK 21 August 2017	Judging Period Begins
WK 23 October 2017	Nominations Announced
Wednesday 6 December 2017	The 15 <sup>th</sup> British Composer Awards The BP Lecture Theatre and East Foyer of the British Museum, London 5pm – 9.30pm

## CONTACT

For further information or enquiries relating to the Awards, please contact:  
Natalie Bleicher or Cindy Truong



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[www.britishcomposerawards.com](http://www.britishcomposerawards.com)

[@ComposerAwards](https://twitter.com/ComposerAwards)

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## **CATEGORIES**

Entries, which have received their UK première between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, are invited in the following categories:

### **Solo or Duo**

Instrumental or vocal music performed by one or two players or voices

### **Small Chamber**

Three to five instruments or voices written for one player or voice per part

### **Chamber Ensemble**

Six or more instruments or voices written for one player or voice per part

### **Choral**

A cappella or accompanied, except works for choir and orchestra

### **Wind Band or Brass Band**

### **Orchestral**

Works for orchestra including works for choir and orchestra

### **Stage Works**

### **Sonic Art**

For example sound art installations, electronic music or works with live electronics

### **Contemporary Jazz Composition**



**Community or Educational Project**

Works demonstrating a composer's work in community engagement alongside compositional craft

**Amateur or Young Performers**

Works for voluntary, amateur or youth choirs and ensembles

All entries must be received by **23:59 on Tuesday 4 July 2017** via the British Composer Awards Entry Site [www.basca.secure-platform.com](http://www.basca.secure-platform.com).

Please read the Rules and Guidelines carefully as BASCA has made a number of changes to the Awards in 2017.

**COMPOSER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Composers must have been born in the United Kingdom, or have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom from 1 April 2012 until 31 March 2017.
2. Composers may be any age.
3. Composers do not have to be members of BASCA.

**WORK ELIGIBILITY**

4. To qualify, works must have received their UK première in a public performance, either live or broadcast, between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.
- 4a. In the Sonic Art category, a public performance may be taken to mean public access via a digital platform if the work has been specifically created for this medium.
5. Works must have been completed after 1 April 2012.
6. Works do not have to have been published.
7. Anyone may enter a work, including the composer or any other interested individual or organisation.

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

8. Each work will be judged in one category only.
- 8a. The entrant should choose the category which most closely fits the work. BASCA may move the work to a different category if appropriate.
9. BASCA may add, remove or redefine categories after all of the entries have been received.



10. Works entered in the Contemporary Jazz Composition category must contain improvisation as an essential element.

### SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

11. All entries are to be submitted online via the British Composer Awards Entry Site [www.basca.secure-platform.com](http://www.basca.secure-platform.com)
12. There is no limit to the number of works which may be submitted. Entrants create an account which enables them to submit multiple entries without having to re-enter their contact details.
13. Entrants must provide the following information:
- Name of the composer\*
  - Title of the work
  - Duration
  - Date and details of the first UK performance with supporting evidence such as a concert programme or URL of the concert listing\*
  - Date of composition\*
  - Programme note
  - Composer biography\*
  - Résumé of the work's exposure\*

\*This information is not revealed to the judges but will be used in case the work is nominated.

14. For all categories except Community or Educational Project, Sonic Art and Stage Works, the score, recording and programme note must not identify the composer. **Entries which identify the composer will be disqualified.**

Please use the following checklist to ensure that the entry is anonymous:

**Score:**

- Remove the composer's name from the score.
- Check every page to ensure that the composer's name doesn't appear; for example as a copyright notice at the bottom of a page.
- The filenames of uploaded scores must not include the composer's name.

**Recording:**

- Remove the composer's name from the metadata on the recording.
- If the recording is of a broadcast, ensure that any announcements are removed.
- The filenames of uploaded recordings must not include the composer's name.

**Programme Note:**

- Programme notes must not identify the composer or refer to personal information and the language used must be gender-neutral.
- Programme notes must not refer to other works by the same composer.

15. A score must be submitted for every category except Sonic Art.
- 15a. For Sonic Art, entrants must provide a score if one exists and any other files documenting the work, for example, graphic scores, images, videos or project reports.
- 15b. In the Contemporary Jazz Composition category, a score, lead sheet or relevant notation must be submitted.
16. A recording must be submitted if one exists.
- 16a. Recordings are compulsory in the Contemporary Jazz Composition category.
- 16b. In other categories, for example Choral, where no recording exists it is helpful to provide a reduced or closed score if available. This should be in addition to the full score.
17. Recordings must be uploaded in MP3 format only. Scores and other documents must be uploaded in PDF format only.
18. A video of the performance is required for entries in the Stage Works category and permitted for entries in the Community or Educational Project and Sonic Art categories.
- 18a. Videos may be submitted in other categories if necessary as long as the composer and any information about the composer does not appear in the video.
19. Videos must be in MP4, AVI or MOV format only.
20. The Community or Educational Project category is for works arising from a project where the composer has worked with a group of participants. Interaction between the composer and the participants is a primary purpose for the work's existence, and the composer's interaction is to be judged equally alongside the quality of the finished composition. Entrants are asked additional questions relating to the nature and purpose of the project, the nature of interaction with the participants and how this relates to the final work, and the composer's contribution to delivery of the overall project. As such entrants must supply additional information about the project; for example a project timetable, videos of workshops, testimonials from participants and a project report.



21. For works in the Amateur or Young Performers category, entrants should provide a short narrative outlining the context of this new work for the group and the experiences of the players in preparing the work for its first performance. Please ensure that the narrative does not contain any reference to the composer's identity.
22. We can accept files of any size. The time it takes to upload the file will depend on the speed of your internet connection so entrants need to allow enough time to upload very large files.

23. We would like to collect demographic information on entrants and composers. The answers will help BASCA with monitoring and researching equality and diversity issues. Information will be kept confidential. Entrants who would prefer not to complete this information may leave this page of the form blank.
24. In the event that the work is nominated, BASCA would like to stream an extract of the work on the British Composer Awards website. The website is licensed by PRS for Music however it will be necessary to obtain permission in advance from the owner of the sound recording and from the performers. Please click the check box on the entry form to indicate that permission has been obtained.
25. Coverage of the British Composer Awards is broadcast on BBC Radio 3. In the event that the work is nominated, BBC Radio 3 may seek permission to broadcast all or part of the recording in programmes about the Awards. In the event that you are approached by BBC Radio 3 after the nomination announcement, BASCA would appreciate any assistance you can give them in obtaining permission from the performers to broadcast.
26. There is no entry fee.

## JUDGING

27. Judging will be made by specially appointed juries, the members of which will be chosen by BASCA. In all cases, the final decision rests with BASCA and correspondence will not be entered into with respect to such decisions.
28. In each category there will be two or three nominated works which will be announced in advance of the award ceremony, one of which will be the winning work. Winning works will be announced at the ceremony itself.
29. BASCA reserves the right not to make an award in any category.
30. The final decision regarding all aspects of the British Composer Awards, including the interpretation of these rules, resides with the Board of BASCA.

## AWARD CEREMONY

31. The presentation of the awards will take place at a reception on Wednesday 6 December 2017 at The British Museum and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.
32. In each category the winning composer will be presented with a British Composer Award.

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## CONTACT

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