CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD, Composer
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cheryl Frances-Hoad is an award-winning British composer whose music has been commissioned, performed, broadcast and commercially recorded by leading ensembles, orchestras, festivals and soloists. Composing to commission since the age of fifteen, she has developed a distinctive musical voice shaped by classical tradition and a wide range of contemporary influences, including literature, painting and dance.

Trained as a cellist and pianist at the Yehudi Menuhin School, she subsequently studied at the University of Cambridge and King's College London. Her extensive output encompasses opera, ballet, orchestral and concerto repertoire, choral music, song cycles, chamber music and solo works. Her music has reached audiences at major events including the BBC Proms, as well as through educational and community outreach projects.

Frances-Hoad has held prominent composer-in-residence and research appointments and has received numerous awards, including three Ivor Novello (formally BASCA) Composer Awards. Her work is regularly featured on BBC Radio 3 and is available through a substantial catalogue of published scores and commercial recordings.

"Frances-Hoad drenched each phrase in dramatic expression of the most ravishing intensity."— Matthew Wright, *The Arts Desk*

"Intricate in argument, sometimes impassioned, sometimes mercurial, always compelling in its authority." — Robin Holloway, *The Spectator*

EDUCATION

King's College London | 2002–2006
PhD in Musical Composition
Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge | 2005
MA
Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge | 2001–2002
MPhil in Composition, awarded with Distinction
Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge | 1998–2001
BA (Hons) in Music, Double First-Class Honours
The Yehudi Menuhin School | 1989–1998
Studies in cello, piano and composition

RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Composer in Residence, Wyoming International Chamber Music Festival | 2027
Composer in Residence, Huanui Music, Guernsey | 2025 - 2027
Composer in Residence, Festival Musikdorf Ernen (Switzerland) | 2025
Visiting Fellow in Music, Oriel College, University of Oxford | 2024-2025
Visiting Research Fellow, Keble College, University of Oxford | 2023
Visiting Research Fellow in the Creative Arts, Merton College, University of Oxford | 2020–2022
Composer in Association, Oxford Lieder Festival | 2019–2021
Composer in Residence, Presteigne Festival | 2019
Composer in Residence, London Oriana Choir | 2016–2017
Composer in Residence, London Chamber Orchestra | 2015–2016
Composer in Residence, Ryedale Festival | 2013
Musician in Residence, Rambert Dance | 2012–2013
DARE Fellow in Opera-Related Arts, Opera North and the University of Leeds | 2010–2012
Leverhulme Composer in Residence, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge | 2009–2010

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONOURS

2023 – Arts Council England *Developing Your Creative Practice* grant to write a new saxophone concerto inspired by cutting edge maths.
2022 – Winner of an Ivor Novello Awards, in the Large Ensemble category.
2022 – Genesis Kickstart Fund grant to develop a large-scale choral oratorio.
2019 – Arts Council England *Developing Your Creative Practice* grant to explore electroacoustic music.
2015 – Winner, Buffalo Philharmonic Composition Prize.
2012–2013 – Two PRS Foundation *Women Make Music* awards.
2012 – Selected for the Royal Philharmonic Society Encore Scheme.
2012 – IPPR Northern Light Award for contribution to the arts in the North during her time at Opera North.
2010 – Winner of two BASCA British Composer Awards, in the Solo/Duo and Liturgical categories.
2007 – Winner, Cheltenham Festival Commission in the RPS Composition Prize.
2006 – Winner, International String Orchestra Festival Composition Competition, Malta; and First Robert Helps International Composition Competition, USA.
2002 – Bliss Prize, Harriet Cohen Award and Mendelssohn Scholarship.
2001 – Cambridge Composers' Competition; Sir Rudolph Peters' Prize for Music; and The Master's Prize, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.
1996 – Winner, BBC Young Composer's Competition.
1995 – Winner, Bach Choir Carol Composition Competition.
1993 – Winner, Purcell Composition Prize (Under-25 Section).

PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS

Published Scores

Published by Cadenza Music from 2010 to 2018 and by Chester Music from 2018 onwards.
Complete catalogue, including Cadenza Music and Chester Music titles:
Wise Music Classical – Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Selected Commercial Recordings

Excelsus – Solo Cello Suite EP | Orchid Classics, 2022 | ORC100188
The Whole Earth Dances – Chamber Works | Champs Hill Records, 2020 | CHRCD152
Magic Lantern Tales – Song Cycles | Champs Hill Records, 2018 | CHRCD146
Even You Song – a 50-minute work for choir and organ | First Hand Records, 2017 | FHR61
Stolen Rhythm – Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Works | Champs Hill Records, 2017 | CHRCD119
You Promised Me Everything – Vocal and Chamber Works | Champs Hill Records, 2014 | CHRCD057
The Glory Tree – Chamber Works | Champs Hill Records, 2011 | CHRCD021

Her music also features on numerous additional albums. A full discography is available at https://www.cherylfranceshoad.co.uk/Music.

Her works are regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and have also featured on Scala Radio and Classic FM.

LECTURES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Cheryl Frances-Hoad has been invited to discuss her work at the University of Oxford, Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, University of Manchester, University of Aberdeen, University of Cardiff, and University of Cambridge.

She has also delivered pre-concert talks at festivals in the UK and internationally, including:

Presteigne Festival
Ryedale Festival
New Paths Music Festival
Spitalfields Festival
Robert Helps International Festival, Florida, USA
Le Strade del Suono Festival, Genoa, Italy
Young Euro Classical Festival, Berlin, Germany