Joseph Phibbs

Joseph Phibbs was born in London, and studied at The Purcell School, King's College London, and Cornell University. His teachers have included Param Vir, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, and Steven Stucky.

His works have been premiered by some of the world's leading conductors, including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leonard Slatkin, Vassily Petrenko, Gianandrea Noseda, Sakari Oramo, and Edward Gardner. Rivers to the Sea, premiered by Philharmonia Orchestra/Salonen, received widespread critical acclaim in 2012, winning the orchestral category of the 2013 British Composer Awards. A more recent orchestral work Partita (a joint BBC/Koussevitzky Music Foundation Award commission) was premiered by BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sakari Oramo in 2016.

His first large-scale concerto for clarinet, commissioned by Mark van de Wiel and the Philharmonia Orchestra, received its London premiere to critical acclaim under Edward Gardner in November 2017 at Royal Festival Hall. He has also composed concertos for Evelyn Glennie (Bar Veloce), Sarah Williamson, and Nicholas Daniel (Towards Purcell, a concertante work for oboe, horn, harp).

His instrumental music has been premiered by, among others, London Sinfonietta, Chroma, Belcea Quartet, Orchestra of the Swan, Navarra Quartet, Britten Sinfonia, Michael Chance, Krzysztof Chorzelski, Gloria Cheng, Iestyn Davies, and Tim Mead, and has featured at festivals including Aldeburgh, Three Choirs, Bath, City of London, Hampstead, Spitalfields, Bonn Beethovenfest, Presteigne, and Cheltenham. His String Quartet No.1, commissioned and premiered by the Piatti Quartet, received its US premiere at the Tanglewood Festival in 2015.

Future and current commissions include a work for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen, a chamber opera (Juliana, libretto by Laurie Slade) for Nova Music Opera (Presteigne/Cheltenham festivals in July 2018), a work for the Barbican Piano Trio, and a quartet for the Belcea Quartet, to be premiered in US in 2018. Three recordings (String Quartets 1 & 2, and the Clarinet Concerto, on Sigmun) are due for release in 2018.

Since 2008 Phibbs has been a director of The Britten Estate Limited, and has taught at various universities, including King's College London (2011-14) and Cambridge (2014-15). His music is published by Ricordi and Boosey and Hawkes (choral works).