

# SARAH LIANNE LEWIS

## Composer



Sarah Lianne Lewis is a Welsh composer of bold and imaginative contemporary classical music that blurs the boundary between acoustic and electronic sound. Described as “quiet and delicate” and “full of imaginative sonorities”, her music explores subtle intricacies of texture, engaging audiences in unique soundscapes and sonic atmospheres. She often writes about connection, climate change and the natural world, informed by a female disabled perspective. Sarah is currently Composer Affiliate with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, an RPS Composer 2021–22, and a Classical:NEXT 2022 Fellow. Recordings of her music are available through the Birmingham Record Company and Ty Cerdd records.

### Awards & Recognitions

- Classical:NEXT Fellowship 2022
- Welsh Music Guild Paul Meallor Award for Young Composers 2021
- RPS Composer 2021–22
- State commission from the French Ministry of Culture, 2021
- ISCM Wales Section – Shortlist: 2017, 2018 & 2020
- George Butterworth Award 2018
- Semi-Finalist, Zemlinsky Composition Prize 2019
- Runner-up, William Mathias Prize 2013
- Highly Commended, Ty Cerdd Young Composers’ Competition 2013
- Young Composer of Dyfed 2011

### Qualifications

- MMus Composition 2009–11, Cardiff University
- BA 2:1 (Hons) Music & History 2006–09, Cardiff University

### References

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

## Commissions and Residencies

### Commissions

2023	Hope Ensemble	France
2022	Orchestre National de Bretagne (BBC NOW co-commission) Royal Academy of Music BBC National Orchestra of Wales Royal Northern Sinfonia (RPS Commission) Royal Opera House: ‘Lost & Found’ Drake Music Scotland & Hebrides Ensemble	France / UK UK UK UK UK UK
2021	Blank Space Ensemble Young Composer of Dyfed (BBC NOW commission) International Guitar Foundation Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival Aberystwyth MusicFest	Germany UK UK UK UK
2020	Ensemble Télémaque: OctoberLAB Nevis Ensemble: Lochan Sketches Cowbridge Music Festival BBC Radio 3 ‘Postcards from Composers’ BBC National Orchestra of Wales Laura Sinnerton Wales International Piano Festival	France/UK UK UK UK UK UK UK
2019	UPROAR Ensemble gmem CNCM Marseille	UK/France France
2018	UPROAR Ensemble Rhyl Music Club	UK UK
2017	Bangor Music Festival	UK
2016	Heidelberg Music Festival	Germany
2015	Festival d’Aix-en-Provence	France
2014	RPS & Ideas:Tap Herne Hill Festival	UK UK
2013	Adopt a Composer	UK
2012	Young Musician of Dyfed	UK
2011	Cardiff New Brass Festival	UK

### Residencies

2020–24	Composer Affiliate, BBC National Orchestra of Wales
2020	Composer, Hijinx Theatre Mid-Wales Academy (Ty Cerdd CoDI: Move)
2019	Composer, gmem CNCM Marseille
2017	Sound and Music’s Embedded: Composers’ Kitchen with Quatuor Bozzini
2016	Composer Fellow, Heidelberg Festival
2015	Composer, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence: Voice & Creation residency

## CD Recordings

- 2022 'As the thread breaks' [Violin & Piano], First Light (Ty Cerdd / Mary Hofman & Richard Ormrod, 2022)  
 2021 'Weathering' [Solo Viola], Inner Voices (Birmingham Record Company / Laura Sinnerton, 2021)  
 2020 'I have observed the most distant planet to have a triple form' [Piano 4-Hands], Up Down Top Bottom Strange Charm (Birmingham Record Company / Cobalt Duo, 2020)  
 2018 'Kyrie Eleison' [SATB], Only Breath (Ty Cerdd / Cardiff University Contemporary Music Group, 2018)

## Professional Development

### Long-Term Development

2021-22	Royal Philharmonic Society Composers' Programme	UK
2019	Royal Scottish National Orchestra: Composers' Hub 2018-19	UK
	Ty Cerdd CoDI: Chamber scheme with the Berkeley Ensemble, 2018-19	UK
	Performing Rights Society: Wild Plum Songbook	UK
2018	CeNMaS Ligeti Quartet Workshop	UK
2015	Jerwood Opera Writing Programme 2014-15	UK
2014	ENOA Artist 2013/14: Silbersee Opera & LOD Theatre	Belgium
	Sound and Music: Portfolio with juice vocal ensemble, 2013-14	UK

### Short-Term / Intensive Courses

2020	Jette Parker Young Artists: Women's Empowerment Course with Katie Mitchell	UK
2019	Lucerne Academy Composition Seminar	Switzerland
	Ty Cerdd CoDI: Hack Days (training in MAX/MSP & Arduino softwares)	UK
2017	Musiikin Aika Composition Academy	Finland
	ManiFeste Academy: Orchestral Reading Sessions	France
	TensoYoung Composers' Workshop 2016-17	Belgium / The Netherlands
	Archipel Ose! Academy	France / Switzerland
2016	Cheltenham Music Festival: Composer Academy	UK
2014	Sond'Ar-te 3rd International Young Composers' Forum	Portugal
	Scottish Composition Marathon 2014	UK
2013	Dartington Summer School: Song course for composers and singers	UK
	Scottish Composition Marathon 2013	UK
	Britten Pears Young Artist: Aldeburgh English Song Project 2013	UK
2012	St. Magnus Composers' Course 2012	UK
	BBC National Orchestra of Wales: Composition Wales	UK
2008 - 10	Aberystwyth Musicfest Composition Course	UK

## Notable Works

LARGE SCALE			CHAMBER		
Creatures of dust and dreams	Symphony Orchestra	10'	A soul is more than a body is more than a number is more than	Chamber Ensemble	12'
Stars and their Consolations	Theatre Soundtrack	90'	glitch	Wind Quintet	5'
Cynefin	Dance Theatre	40'	we watch it burn	Ensemble & electronics	8'
The sky didn't fall	Symphony Orchestra	7'	The blue and the dim and the dark	String Octet	10'
Is there no seeker of dreams that were?	Symphony Orchestra	11'	Sunflowers in Autumn	Chamber Ensemble	7'
Chiaroscuro	Symphony Orchestra	5'	first snow, falling	String Quartet	6'
mind the gap	Chamber Orchestra	6'	Blossoms in bloom are also falling blossoms	String Quartet	20'
SOLO / DUO			VOCAL		
Voicing the silence	Solo Piano	7'	All my ships are white	SATB Choir	6'
Four Pieces for Piano	Solo Piano	11'	The Parting Place	Chamber Micro-Opera	6'
Salt-Starred Waters	Solo Flute	4'	Clychau	Soprano & Piano Trio	5'
Weathering	Solo Viola	10'	I dared say it to the sky	SSAATTBB Choir	10'
Apart we are not alone	Solo Stringed Instrument	4'	Relativity and Revelation	Soprano & Percussion	10'
(re)-	Marimba & Electronics	15'	Kyrie Eleison	Mezzo & Piano	13'
Until the thread breaks	Violin & Piano	10'	Ave Maria	SATB Choir	3'