

Dobrinka Tabakova is a composer of 'thoughtful and approachable' music (*Gramophone*), with 'glowing tonal harmonies and grand, sweeping gestures [which] convey a huge emotional depth' (*The Strad*). Her music has been commissioned and performed by leading musicians and ensembles and her debut profile album 'String Paths', on ECM Records, was nominated for a Grammy in 2014.

Between 2014-2016 Dobrinka is working on two large-scale projects with the Stratford-upon-Avon based Orchestra of the Swan as composer-in-residence, supported by the Sorel Organization, New York. The culmination of the residency will be a cantata for the Shakespeare 400 anniversary in 2016, bringing together rare J.M.W. Turner sketches of a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon and Shakespeare's timeless words.

Born in the historic town of Plovdiv, Bulgaria to a music-loving family of doctors and scientists, Dobrinka Tabakova moved to London in 1991, where she has lived since. Here she studied at Alleyn's School and the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, specialising in composition, piano and conducting. Early on, the composer John Adams praised her music as being "extremely original and rare". She attended summer courses at the renowned Centre Acanthes in France, as well as the Prague and Milan Conservatoire summer compositions courses, alongside her composition degree studies at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (GSMD) in London. On graduating with distinction BMus and MMus at the GSMD, Dobrinka was appointed Composition Fellow there, where she continued her activities as President of the Contemporary Music Society. In 2007 she was awarded a doctorate in composition from King's College London (KCL). Her composition teachers have included Simon Bainbridge, Diana Burrell, Robert Keeley and Andrew Schultz as well as masterclasses with John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Alexander Goehr, Marek Kopelent, Philippe Manoury, Alessandro Solbiati, Olav Anton Thommessen and Iannis Xenakis.

Among Dobrinka Tabakova's prizes are the Jean-Frédéric Perrenoud prize and medal at the 4th Vienna International Music Competition; the prize for an anthem for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, performed at St Paul's Cathedral, the GSMD Lutoslawski Composition Prize 1999 and the 2007 Adam Prize of King's College London. She was a finalist for the 2010 Gaudeamus prize in Amsterdam and in 2011 was awarded first prize and the Sorel Medallion in Choral Composition, New York.

Her works have been recorded for the Hyperion and Avie record labels, among others, and in May 2013 ECM Records released the first full CD Album devoted to her music. The album *String Paths* reached No. 2 in the UK's Specialist Classical charts and attracted praise from the international press. *String Paths* was nominated in the Classical Compendium category of the 56th Grammy Awards and was one of four albums supporting the Grammy Nomination of ECM Records founder Manfred Eicher for Classical Producer of the Year. Music from the album was used in Jean-Luc Godard's award winning 2014 film 'Adieu au langage'.

The music of Dobrinka Tabakova has captured the imagination and support of worldwide audiences and leading musicians. She has been invited composer-in-residence at the Oxford Chamber Music Festival, Leicester International Chamber Music Festival and Utrecht International Chamber Music Festival, Kremerata Baltica Festival in Sigulda, Latvia and guest composer at the Lockenhaus Festival, Austria and Julian Rachlin & Friends festival, Dubrovnik. Dobrinka has also been invited as featured composer at the Spectrum Concerts, Berlin 20th anniversary concert and the 2010 Musicarama Festival in Hong Kong. Over the current season she was featured composer at the Arbanassi Summer Music Festival and had a major focus of her work, alongside Arvo Pärt, at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival, UK.

Notable commissions include three suites and a concerto for violist Maxim Rysanov, Concerto for Cello & Strings for Kristina Blaumane and Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Of the Sun Born for Riga Youth Choir Kamer's large project of World Sun Songs, as well as projects with Janine Jansen, Gidon Kremer, Natalie Clein, Milos Karadaglic, Orchestra of the Swan, Choir of Merton College (Oxford), Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra and Voices of Ascension (New York). 2014 saw the premiere of a Royal Philharmonic Society commission, a joint film and music collaboration with Scottish director Ruth Paxton. The film *Pulse* was part of the UK's first New Music Biennial and was screened through the UK and across Europe.

Dobrinka Tabakova has dedicated a significant time to promoting music by living composers co-ordinating the British Music Information Centre's *The Cutting Edge* Series and acting as President of the Contemporary Music Society at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

CURRICULUM VITAE (selected)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Music composition, King's College, London, 2008 w/ Rob Keeley, Silvina Milstein, George Benjamin
M.Mus., Music Composition, Guildhall School of Music & Drama (GSMD), 2002 w/ Diana Burrell
B.Mus. Hons., distinction, Music Composition, GSMD, 2001 w/ Simon Bainbridge, Andrew Schultz, Robert Saxton

Composition masterclasses

Centre Acanthes, France (1995) w/ Philippe Manoury, Alessandro Solbiati, Iannis Xenakis
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic (1999) w/Marek Kopelent, Petr Kotik, Helmut Lachenmann
Corropoli, Italy (1996) w/ Alessandro Solbiati
Oslo Academy, Norway (2001) w/Olav Anton Thommessen
GSMD, London (1999-2003) w/ John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Zoran Eric, Alexander Goehr

AWARDS

First prize and Sorel Medallion in choral composition, New York (June 2011)
Finalist at Gaudeamus music week, Amsterdam (September 2010)
Adam prize of Kings College London (July 2007)
Barclays Private Banking Prize for anthem for H.M. the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations (July 2002)
Joint first prize at the Lutoslawski Composition competition (September 1999)
Jean-Frederic Perrenoud Prize and Medal at the 4th Vienna International Music Competition (June 1995)

EVENTS & HONORS HIGHLIGHTS

2016

'Untamed' with Sydney Dance Company and Rafael Bonachela (October)
'Immortal Shakespeare' cantata as part of Shakespeare 400 commemoration (April)
Composer-in-residence Orchestra of the Swan, supported by Sorel Organization (2014-16)

2015

Profile concert, Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York (December)
Featured composer Arbanassi Summer Music (August)
Featured composer at Vale of Glamorgan Festival, Wales, UK (May)
'The High Line' premiere (May)
BBC Radio 3 'Composer of the Week' feature (March)
Cello Concerto, Dark music Days, Reykyavik Iceland

2014

Ballet Arabesque international choreography composition (November)
Alma Redemptoris Mater, Merton College Choir Book at Cheltenham Festival (July)
New Music Biennial film collaboration 'PULSE' commissioned by Royal Philharmonic Society (July)
'Fantasy Homage to Schubert' selected at the UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers, Helsinki (May)
Adieu au langage, dir. Jean-Luc Godard, jury prize, Cannes Film Festival (May)

2013

Grammy Nomination for 'String Paths' in Best Classical Compendium category (December)
Release of debut profile album 'String Paths' on ECM Records (May)

2012

'On Colours' commissioned by Britten Sinfonia and Wigmore Hall as part of Benjamin Britten Centenary celebrations (December)
Composer in residence at Oxford Chamber Music Festival (October)
'Centuries of Meditations' premiered at Three Choirs Festival, Hereford Cathedral (July)
US premiere of *On the South Downs* performed by Voices and Orchestra of Ascension, New York (April)

2011

Profile concert with Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, for recording (March)

2010

Featured composer at Hong Kong musicarama new music festival (November)

European tour of *Such different paths* with Janine Jansen and Academy of St Martin in the Fields, with performances at Hamburg Laeiszhalle, Munich Prinzregententheater and Vienna Musikverein (January)

2009

Featured composer at Utrecht International Chamber Music Festival, artistic director Janine Jansen (December)

BBC Radio 3/Royal Philharmonic Society commission *Suite in Jazz Style*, performed by Maxim Rysanov and Katya Apekisheva (January)

2008

Premiere of *Concert for Cello & Strings* at Muziekgebouw, part of Amsterdam Cello Biennale, with Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Kristina Blaumane (October)

Featured composer at Lockenhaus Festival, artistic director Gidon Kremer (July)

Commissioned by Riga Youth Choir Kamer for the World Sun Songs project, presented at the World Choral Symposium, Copenhagen (July)

Featured composer at Kremerata Baltica Festival, Sigulda, Latvia (June)

Premiere of *Such different paths* at Spectrum Concerts Berlin series, Berlin Philharmonie (January)

2007

Featured composer at Utrecht International Chamber Music Festival, artistic director Janine Jansen (December)

Julian Rachlin & Friends Dubrovnik (September)

Composer in residence at Leicester International Chamber Music Festival, artistic director Nicholas Daniel (September)

Premiere of *Dawn* from *Sun Triptych* at Kronberg, with Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer (February)

2004

Concerto for Viola & Strings, premiere at St John's Smith Square

2003

Bremen Profile Intermedia' The Custard Tart Opera' collaboration

APPOINTMENTS

Composer-in-residence Orchestra of the Swan, supported by Sorel Organization (2014-16)

Series coordinator for the British Music Information Centre's *The Cutting Edge* concert series, London (2003-09)

Composition Fellowship at the GSMD (2002-03)

President of the Contemporary Music Society, GSMD (1999-2003)

Добринка Табакова е родена в Пловдив и през 1991-ва година се премества в Лондон с родителите си. Тя завършва с отличие консерваторията Гилдхол и получава докторска степен по композиция от Кралския Колеж в Лондон. През 2002-ра година, Добринка Табакова печели първа награда за химн по случай Златния Юбилей на кралица Елизабет II-ра. Нейният първи авторски диск String Paths (Струнни Пътеки), на престижната немска звукозаписна компания ECM Records, е номиниран на 56-тите награди „Грами“ в Лос Анжелес. Музика от албума е използвана от легендарния френски директор Жан-Люк Годар във филма му ‘Сбогом, език’ (Adieu au langage), който получава наградата на журито на фестивала в Кан.

Между редицата изтъкнати музиканти и организации, които са изпълнявали и поръчвали творби от Табакова са БиБиСи, Кралското Филхармонично Дружество, Максим Рисанов, Амстердам Синфониета, Кристина Блаумане, Джанин Янсен както и фестивали за класическа музика по цяла Европа, Америка и Хонг Конг. Нейния ‘Слънчев Триптих’ е изпълнен от световно известния цигулар Гидон Кремер и Кремерата Балтика по време на Моцартовите седмици в Залцбург. Произведението е също изпълнено от Камерен ансамбъл Софийски Солисти, под диригентството на Пламен Джуров, на Лондонския Фестивал на Българската Култура и в Софийски Музикални седмици.

През 2014-та, ‘Фантазия в памет на Шуберт’ на Табакова, в изпълнение на Оркестъра на Българското Национално Радио и Емил Табаков е представена на Международната Композиторска Трибуна, в Хелзинки и е сред трите препоръчани творби за годината. Същата година, концерта за Чело и Струнни на Табакова е избран за международния конкурс по хореография ‘Маргарита Арнаудова’ на балет Арабеск.

Тази година Табакова е поканена да напише кантата за честванията на 400-ия юбилей от смъртта на Уилям Шекспир. Кантата ‘Безсмъртния Шекспир’ ще бъде изпълнена на тържествения концерт в катедралата където писателя е погребан- Света Троица в Стратфорд-он-Ейвън, на 21-ви април 2016. Предстоят ангажименти със танцовата компания на Сидни и Радио Оркестъра на Лайпциг.