



*New Music
20x12*

BBC
RADIO



90-93FM



LOTTERY FUNDED

Anna Meredith
HandsFree

*National Youth Orchestra
of Great Britain*



Anna Meredith HandsFree



HandsFree enables NYO's young musicians, from all over Britain, to share their musicianship and creative inventiveness without their instruments, through clapping, body percussion and beatboxing. Set for flashmob-style performances in cities nationwide and as a surprise opener/encore to NYO concerts, Anna shaped *HandsFree* in workshops with members of the NYO, in her words, 'building a piece they're excited to perform and want to own, that showcases their virtuosity to audiences old and new'. New Music 20x12 is the brainchild of Jillian Barker and David Cohen who wanted to put new music at the heart of the Olympic celebrations in 2012. It is delivered by the PRS for Music Foundation in partnership with BBC Radio 3, London 20x12 and NMC Recordings.

Artists: National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

Duration: 11'25

About Anna Meredith



Anna Meredith is a composer and performer of electronic and acoustic music. Her acoustic material has been performed around the world by leading orchestras and ensembles. She has been composer in residence with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and is currently the PRS/RPS Composer in the House with Sinfonia VIVA.

She came to public attention through her 2008 work *forms* for the BBC Last Night of the Proms and has since written another BBC Prom commission, her first opera (*Tarantula in Petrol Blue*, with libretto by Philip Ridley) and collaborated with the beatboxer Shlomo, writing the acclaimed *Concerto for Beatboxer and Orchestra*. Anna is also a judge for the BBC Young Musician of the Year, a mentor for Goldie for the TV show *Classic Goldie* and a frequent guest and commentator for the BBC Proms and other Radio 3 and 4 shows. She was also the classical music representative for the 2009 South Bank Show Breakthrough Award and recently won the 2010 Paul Hamlyn Award for Composers.

Anna's most recent piece, *Four Tributes to 4am* for orchestra, electronics and visuals by Eleanor Meredith was premiered by Sinfonia ViVA and André de Ridder as part of the ABO Conference in 2011.

She is building a reputation for her eclectic electronic work which she has performed throughout Europe alongside a diverse range of artists including supporting These New Puritans in Berlin, James Blake, Seb Rochford and Max de Wardener at Ether 2011 and a solo set at La Carrière de Normandoux. She has recently been touring, performing alongside Mira Calix performing their compositions for string quartet and sampled MRI scanner as part of Brainwaves.

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

Every year, 170 talented teenagers from all corners of the country join forces to achieve something extraordinary. They reawaken classical music, reinvigorating great repertoire with fresh energy and resonance.

They generate tremendous team spirit and remind us all of the exhilarating rewards that come from hard work, dedication and following their dreams. Everyone who sees them in action agrees the NYO presents a luminous portrait of the youth of today.

The orchestra meets for residential courses each year. Every day of each course is another extraordinary occasion, fusing intensive instrumental rehearsals with workshops addressing all aspects of musicality including voice, movement, composing and improvisation. It's an opportunity to learn from inspiring professionals and make sensational music with wonderful international artists who work with the orchestra every year. A range of distinctive projects also enables our young musicians to be the drivers of the creative process, exploring new approaches, relationship and settings.



Special thanks to the Musicians Benevolent Fund for making this New Music 20x12 commission possible.

The performance of *HandsFree* by the NYO was recorded for BBC Radio 3 in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool on 5 Jan 2012, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 21 April 2012. The producer was Philip Tagney.

For details of all **New Music 20x12 commissions**, visit www.nmcrec.co.uk/new-music-20x12

New Music 20x12 is generously supported by the following committed patrons and funders:



John S. Cohen Foundation, Columbia Foundation Fund of The Capital Community Foundation, Charlotte and Dennis Stevenson, The Tolkien Trust, John and Ann Tusa, Lilian Slowe, John Waites Charitable Trust, Richard Walduck, Honey mead Arts Trust, and Sir Anthony Cleaver.



New Music 20x12 partners who have made this programme possible

NMC Recordings is a charitable company (reg. no. 328052) established for the recording of contemporary music by the Holst Foundation; it is grateful for the support of Arts Council England.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

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