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Conrad
Asman

Composer



Biography

The music of composer **Conrad Asman** (b. 1996) has gained international recognition as being “innovative and cutting edge” (Chorosynthesis) and spans a wide emotional range from “heart-rending” (The Esoterics), to “fun and festive” (Creative Feel). Asman’s works show a strong interest in musical fabric, harmonic fluidity and textural-temporal relationships. His works have been widely performed in Africa, Asia and North America in venues such as the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Jinji Lake and Carnegie Hall. Engagements with ensembles such as the Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic and the Cape Town Youth Choir have led to his work winning multiple major awards, scholarships and commissions worldwide.

Conrad Asman grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa where his early interest in composition began to show in parallel to taking piano lessons. He began studying at the South African College of Music in 2015 where, as the youngest undergraduate participant, he won the Cone of Composition competition. His first major orchestral piece *Igniting Kites & Flying Fireworks* received multiple performances by major South African orchestras and went on to claiming both the Jan Royce Foundation Orchestral Composition and the Nicholas Abbot Composition prizes. Asman’s undergraduate contributions led to him receiving a Fellowship in Composition (FTCL) accredited from Trinity College London.

These opportunities led to Asman’s works receiving international attention. In 2016, he accepted an invitation to the Curtis Institute of Music Young Artist Summer Festival. He made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Cape Town Youth Choir with his work *On a Night*, which went on to win the Stefans Grové National Choral Composition Competition. Asman was recognised as the Polyphonos Young Composer award laureate in 2017, which sparked a new commission for The Esoterics choral ensemble in Seattle. In 2018, Asman was named as the main winner of the SAMRO Overseas Scholarship; enabling him to pursue further compositional engagements abroad.

In the last two years, Asman has been in heavy connection with Asia. In 2018, he was selected as a finalist for the Thailand International Composition Festival and went on to be named the joint winner of the Jinji Lake Composition Competition. He was chosen for both of these events out of more than hundreds of applications from over forty countries around the world. Last year (2019), Asman was commissioned by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to compose a new work for the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the Listening to China project. Asman is currently continuing this connection with two new orchestral art songs for the iSing! Music Festival.

Conrad works and lives in London. He recently served as the Composer-in-residence at the ICon Arts Festival in Romania as well as on the jury panel for the Concurso Eres Arte festival held in Columbia. He is pursuing a Master of Music Degree at the Royal Academy of Music (generously supported by grants from both the Academy and the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust), with current projects including pieces for the CHROMA Trio Mallarmé ensembles as well as piano virtuoso George Fu.