Charlotte Bray
Composer

British composer Charlotte Bray is one of the most esteemed and in-demand composers of her generation. Exhibiting uninhibited ambition and desire to communicate, her music is exhilarating, inherently vivid, and richly expressive with lyrical intensity. Championed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Aurora Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, her music has been performed at festivals in Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Tanglewood, Aix-en-Provence, Verbier and Kuhmo and with renowned conductors including Marin Alsop, Sir Mark Elder, [Sakari Oramo](https://www.harrisonparrott.com/artists/sakari-oramo), [Oliver Knussen](https://www.harrisonparrott.com/artists/oliver-knussen-1952-2018), Jessica Cottis, Daniel Harding, Duncan Ward, and Karina Canellakis.

Recent premieres of solo and chamber works include *The Sun and Her Flowers* (2023), commissioned by The Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium; *A Lost Place* for string trio, commissioned by Spannungen Festival (2023); and *Ungrievable Lives* for string quartet (2021/22), performed by the Castalian Quartet at the Elbphilharmonie, [Wigmore Hall](https://harrisonparrott.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37281bc11ebda8016de0b7f80&id=d96250cbf1&e=9e0f565eec), Konzerthaus Wien, Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. The piece was inspired by a new installation by artist Caroline Burraway, comprising 13 children’s dresses handmade from discarded refugee lifejackets. Mezzo-soprano Christina Daletska and pianistSteffen Schleiermacher performed *The Earth Cried Out to the Sky* (2022) at Kissinger Sommer Music Festival. *From the Innermost Places* (2022), a piece for cellist Anssi Karttunen, was performed at Aldeburgh Festival as part of a concert series celebrating Oliver Knussen. *Crossing Faultlines*, a song cycle commissioned by soprano Samantha Crawford and pianist Lana Bode, which sets specially written text by Nicki Jackowska about women’s experiences in the workplace, premiered at Oxford Lieder Festival 2021.

Recent orchestral world premieres include *A Dark Doorway* (2023), premiered by the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin conducted by Robin Ticciati. *Forsaken* (2022) was performed by Philharmonisches Orchester Hagen and conducted by Joseph Trafton at Stadthalle Hagen in Germany. The work focused on one of Bray’s central concerns in her work: the human influence on nature. *Landmark* (2022), for orchestral winds, percussion and basses, was commissioned and premiered by the Dresdner Sinfoniker conducted by Jonathan Stockhammer. Other orchestral highlights include the premiere of *The Flight of Bitter Water* (2022), performed by Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien conducted by Marin Alsop and broadcast on Ö1. The orchestral miniature *Where Icebergs Dance Away* (2021) was commissioned by WDR Sinfonieorchester (Cristian Măcelaru) and also performed at the BBC Proms by the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oramo. The second performance of Bray’s triple concerto *Germinate* was given by Ensemble 1010 under Catherine Larsen-Maguire (2023). Her cello concerto *Falling in the Fire,* commissioned by the 2016 BBC Proms, was premiered by Guy Johnston and the BBC Symphony Orchestra with conductor Sakari Oramo.

Upcoming commissions include *Mriya* (2023) for violin and piano, commissioned by Wigmore Hall for Leila Josefowicz; Bray’s first full-scale opera *American Mother*, commissioned by Theater Hagen (2025) with libretto by Colum McCann; *A Sky Too Small* for Orchestre de Paris under Klaus Mäkelä, co-commissioned by Festival d’Aix-en-Provence (2024); and a new work for Ensemble Intercontemporain (2025).

L’Orchestre de Chambre de Genèvenamed Bray as Composer-in-Residence 2023-2026 and will perform several of her works over the 3 years. She visited Kuhmo International Chamber Music Festival and Spannungen Festival as Composer-in-Residence (2023). In 2019 Bray was awarded an Ivor Novello Award for *Invisible Cities.* Winner of the Lili Boulanger Prize (2014), Critics’ Circle Award for Exceptional Young Talent (2014), Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize (2010), *At the Speed of Stillness* featured in the ISCM World Music Days Festival 2017 in Vancouver. Bray was selected as a MacDowell Norton Stevens Fellow (2015-16) and interviewed as part of BBC Radio 3’s *Composers’ Rooms* series in 2015. She is an Honorary Member of Birmingham Conservatoire, named as their Alumni of the Year 2014 (Excellence in Sport or the Arts), and also listed in The Evening Standard's *Most Influential Londoners* (2011). Composer-in-Residence with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group/Sound and Music (2009/10), Oxford Lieder Festival (2011) and Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival (2015), her residencies include MacDowell (2013, 2015), Liguria Study Centre Bogliasco (2013), and Aldeburgh Music (2010, 2015).

Portrait discs of Bray’s music have been recorded on RTF Classical (2018) and NMC Records (2014). Her work also features on several discs including *Tecchlers Cello* by Guy Johnston (Kings College Cambridge 2017), *Oberon Celebrates Shakespeare* by the Oberon Trio (Avi-music and SWR 2016) and *Upheld by Stillness* by the choral ensemble ORA Singers (Harmonia Mundi, released February 2016).

Originally from High Wycombe, Bray (b.1982) graduated from Birmingham Conservatoire with First Class Honours, having studied composition with Joe Cutler, and then completed a Masters in Composition with Distinction from the Royal College of Music in London studying with Mark-Anthony Turnage. She went on to participate in the Britten-Pears Contemporary Composition Course and studied at Tanglewood Music Centre. Her music is published by Birdsong. She lives in Berlin.

