



INSTITUTE
OF ENGLISH
STUDIES

School of Advanced Study
University of London



SCHOOL of
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

POETRY, MUSIC, DRAMA: THE CREATION OF CONTEMPORARY OPERA **Wednesday 16 January 2013**

Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Conveners:

Paul Archbold (Director, Institute of Musical Research)
Fiona Sampson (Poet, Editor of *Poem* magazine, Associate Fellow IES & IMR)

Presenters:

David Beard (Senior Lecturer in Music, Cardiff University)
Sir Harrison Birtwistle (Composer)
John Casken (Composer, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester)
Jonathan Cross (Professor of Musicology, University of Oxford)
David Harsent (Poet, Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University)
Michael Symmons Roberts (Poet, Professor of Poetry, Manchester Metropolitan University)
Robert Saxton (Composer, Professor of Composition, University of Oxford)
Andrew Watts (Counter-Tenor, director, producer)

Conference Schedule:

- 10:00 **Screening of extracts of contemporary operas** (introduced by Paul Archbold)
Golem Words and Music by John Casken
The Minotaur Music Harrison Birtwistle, Libretto David Harsent
The Sacrifice Music James MacMillan, Libretto Michael Symmons Roberts
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 **Composing a libretto:** (chair: Fiona Sampson)
John Casken, Robert Saxton and Michael Symmons Roberts
- 15:00 Coffee
- 15:30 **Instinctive interventions: Birtwistle at the National Theatre and beyond**
David Beard
- 16:00 **Shadows and mirrors: Birtwistle in the new millennium**
Jonathan Cross
- 16:30 **Round Table: Contemporary opera in performance** (chair: Paul Archbold)
John Casken, Robert Saxton, Andrew Watts

John Coffin Trust Lecture:

- 18:00 **The Minotaur and other collaborations**
Sir Harrison Birtwistle & David Harsent in conversation
- 19:00 Reception

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