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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