

Daniel Kidane

Composer



“Kidane uses his orchestral canvas with great skill, the tintinnabulating winds and percussion twinkling against beautifully smooth string writing.” - *The Times*

Daniel Kidane's music has been performed extensively across the UK and abroad as well as being broadcast on BBC Radio 3, described by the *Financial Times* as 'quietly impressive' and by *The Times* as 'tautly constructed' and 'vibrantly imagined'.

Daniel was awarded a Royal Philharmonic Society Prize in 2013 and in 2016 received a prestigious Paul Hamlyn Award for Artists. He received an honorary doctorate from Coventry University in 2022 and is currently Visiting Tutor in Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music and Cambridge University.

Daniel began his musical education at the age of eight when he started playing the violin. He first received composition lessons at the Royal College of Music Junior Department and then went on to study privately in St Petersburg, receiving lessons in composition from Sergey Slonimsky. He completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the RNCM under the tutelage of Gary Carpenter and David Horne. He continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Julian Anderson.

His orchestral works include *Woke*, which was premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and chief conductor Sakari Oramo at the Last Night of the Proms in September 2019; *Zulu* premiered by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra; *Breakbeat*, written for the CBSO Youth Orchestra, and inspired by Grime music; and *Sirens*, written for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, motivated by the eclectic musical nightlife in Manchester.

Other commissions include *Tourbillon* for Mahan Esfahani (harpsichord) and Michala Petri (recorder) premiered at Wigmore Hall and released on CD; *Jungle*, a piano duo written for the Cheltenham Festival which draws inspiration from Jungle music and a new type of vernacular; *Songs of Illumination*, a song cycle commissioned by Leeds Lieder and setting the poetry of William Blake; and a setting of the words of Martin Luther King for orchestra and chorus entitled *Dream Song* premiered by baritone Roderick Williams and the Chineke! Orchestra which was played at the reopening of the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 2018 (a US premiere of the work is planned by the Seattle Symphony, postponed from Spring 2020).

As a member of the London Symphony Orchestra's Jerwood and Panufnik Composers Schemes he has written several works for members of the LSO, which have focused on multiculturalism.

Works premiered during the Covid-19 lockdowns include *The Song Thrush and the Mountain Ash* for Huddersfield Choral Society with text by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage; *Dappled Light* for violinists Maxine Kwok and Julian Gil Rodriguez for the London Symphony Orchestra's Summer Shorts series; *Christus factus est* for Merton College Choir recorded for Delphian; and *Be Still* for the Manchester Camerata, which was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and received further international premieres by the San Francisco Symphony, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris. One of his most recent works *Revel*, inspired by Manchester Carnival was commissioned by the BBC Proms for the Kanneh-Mason family and premiered in August 2021.

Recent highlights include the premiere of Daniel's new violin concerto, written for Julia Fischer and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Edward Gardner in March 2024. The world premiere of *Sun Poem*, given by the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle at the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2022, was subsequently performed at Musikfest Berlin, Lucerne Festival, Grafenegg Festival and the Sydney Opera House, receiving 5-star reviews. The piece was co-commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony, with the US premiere conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen in October 2022 at Mondavi Center for Performing Arts and Davies Symphony Hall.

This season will see a Daniel Kidane Focus Day at Wigmore Hall, in collaboration with the Leonore Piano Trio. It will feature a new work, and Kidane's *Flux and Stasis*, which received critical acclaim in *The Times*. Daniel's works are published by Schott Music.

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