

Phillip Cooke

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Newsletter: September 2010

Welcome to my first Newsletter, a relatively simple affair that highlights forthcoming performances, commissions and recordings and gives information on any recent news and exciting developments. The Newsletter will basically give a brief round-up of news from my website, so for more up-to-date information do check the website www.phillipcooke.com.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and sorry for clogging up your inboxes!

All the best, PAC.

News:

- **Launch of new website.** As of September I have a new and exciting website, www.phillipcooke.com, which replaces the earlier .co.uk. The new website has lots of information on forthcoming performances and commissions and has plenty of sound recordings of recent pieces. There is lots of information about all my work including pdfs of all the pieces which can be downloaded free of charge. There is a collection of programme notes I have written on various pieces and, for those of you who may be interested, a gallery of lovely pictures of me.
- **Blog.** One of the features of the new website will be a regular blog from me in which I am aiming to write regular thought-provoking comment on my work as a composer, the composition process, the idea of being a composer in the twenty-first century and miscellaneous other topics that surround the contemporary music world. I shall not (I hope) provide a truly dull and pointless diary of the mundanities and minutiae of my day-to-day life nor seek to wage war on other composers and artists. Recent blog entries can be read [here](#).
- **New Commissions.** I am currently working on two new song cycles, one for baritone and piano and one for alto, viola and piano (both for performance in 2011), and a setting of the *Te Deum* for female choir again for performance in 2011. More information on the premieres to come.
- **Recent Performances.** A busy summer of performances began with the premiere of *Verbum caro factum est* by the Temple Church Choir (cond. James Vivian) as part of the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music in May. This was followed by *Invocation* by the Choir of The Queen's College (cond. Owen Rees) with Simon Desbruslais on trumpet in June, and then the premiere of *Jabberwocky (and other fantastic tales)* by the Chester Music Society Youth Choir (cond. Helena Thomas) in July. The Warehouse Ensemble gave two performances of the mini-opera *Progeny* at this year's Tete-a-Tete Opera Festival in London and the Pro Nobis Singers gave the first full performance of the *Three Marian Motets* (cond. Clive Walkley) at this year's Lake District Summer Music Festival. Recordings of most of these works can be found on the website.

- **Review of *Progeny*.** *Progeny* received a good review on the opera review site Operaticus. The work was described having “perhaps the most emotional impact...the combination of a creepy music-box and an austere vocal duet giving way to lush lounge jazz, was a beguiling and memorable effect.” The review can be read [here](#).

Selected Forthcoming Performances:

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool, UK

11 June 2011 (tbc)

The Lord is My Light (2010)

Choir of St Peter's College, Oxford, Roger Allen

St Paul's Cathedral, London, UK

02 January 2011

Te Deum (2010) World Premiere

Aurora Nova, Patrick Craig

Featured Work:



The Glory of Zion (2010)

A setting of Isaiah 60: 1-2

SATB, Organ

c. 3'

Commissioned by the Choir of Oriel College Oxford

fp. 02 February 2010, Oriel College Chapel, Oxford; Choir of Oriel College, cond. James Aiken.

For more information on *The Glory of Zion* and to hear a recording and download a score visit [here](#).