

ANTONY PITTS

BIOGRAPHY (February 2015)

Antony Pitts was born in 1969 and is a composer, conductor, sound designer, lecturer, developer, broadcaster, recording producer, and keyboard player, and recipient of the Radio Academy BT Award, the Cannes Classical Award, and the Prix Italia. One of several composers in his family, he sang as a treble in the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, and wrote his first pieces down at the age of 8. At New College, Oxford he was an Academic Scholar and later an Honorary Senior Scholar; he gained the joint highest mark in Moderations and First-Class Honours in Music. His career since has combined academic, industry, and professional experience at world-class levels: a decade-long association with the Royal Academy of Music culminating in an internationally-recognized research project as Senior Lecturer; a rich and varied output as a BBC Senior Producer marked by ground-breaking practice and an exceptional catalogue of awards and nominations; and a creative record as a composer, scholar, and performer with an acclaimed series of recordings of “milestones of early Western music” on Naxos, and commissions for leading ensembles and festivals in the UK, Europe, and the Middle East, including the Cheltenham Music Festival, the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, The Clerks, Dal’Ouna, Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy, Festival of the Voice, King’s College London, the Netherlands’ Illustre Lieve Vrouwe Broederschap, London Festival of Contemporary Church Music, Oxford Camerata, Oxford Festival of Contemporary Music, Rundfunkchor Berlin, and The Swingle Singers. While still at New College he founded TONUS PEREGRINUS and in 2004 won a Cannes Classical Award for his interpretation of Arvo Pärt’s *Passio* with the ensemble. He joined Radio 3 in 1992, and in 1995 received the Radio Academy BT Award for a pioneering webcast; he has been nominated no fewer than eight times for the premier international radio award, the Prix Italia, winning in 2004 with *A Pebble in the Pond*. He devised new courses in Composition and Creative Technology for the Royal Academy of Music, and is patron of the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music and an honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Church Music.

Antony’s music has been premiered at Wigmore Hall and Westminster Cathedral in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Philharmonie Kammermusiksaal in Berlin, as well as at more unusual venues and occasions such as Crossness Engines Pumping Station and the memorial events for former Soviet agent Alexander Litvinenko; his scores are published by 1equalmusic and Faber Music – notably *XL*, the companion 40-part motet to Tallis’s *Spem in alium* – and recordings of his music, including several complete albums, are available on Hyperion, Harmonia Mundi, Naxos, Signum, and Unknown Public, and he has a considerable output of radiophonic works and acoustic art commissioned by and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and across the EBU. He was commissioned by Klaus Heymann to create *The Naxos Book of Carols*, also published by Faber Music and circulated to millions of homes in the UK; his double-choir mass setting for the Dutch Illustre Lieve Vrouwe Broederschap was the first to be commissioned by the foundation for almost 500 years and is due for revival in 2016 in The Netherlands; his cantata for string quartet and traditional Arab ensemble – *Who is my neighbour?* – was the focus of an Aldeburgh residency at Snape, as well as a teaching week for Aldeburgh Young Musicians and workshops at the Al Kamandjâti music centre in Ramallah, and he conducted its premiere at the opening night of the Spitalfields Summer Festival; his oratorio-musical *Jerusalem-Yerushalayim* received a standing ovation both at its first performance in Northern Ireland and at its U.S. premiere in May 2012, and a studio recording under his direction was released as a double album in 2013 and has been remixed for release with narration by David Suchet in 2015. As a performer, he made his Glastonbury debut in 2014.

Antony is represented – as composer and conductor – by Claire Rogers (claire@1equalmusic.com).
