

Paul Lovatt-Cooper

Paul Lovatt-Cooper is one of the hottest young composing talents of his generation. He is currently the “Composer in Association” with the world famous Black Dyke Band and is currently enjoying performances and premiers of his works all over the world.

Paul has enjoyed performances of his works including world premiers in the UK and in countries such as Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, and The United States. His pieces have been performed in some of the worlds finest concert halls including Birmingham’s Symphony Hall, Manchester’s Bridgewater Hall, Perth’s Concert Hall, Cardiff’s St David’s Hall, Holland’s De Lawei Concert Hall and London’s Royal Albert Hall.

His composing skills have earned him commissions from various bands including Black Dyke Band, Cory Band, BT Band and the National Children’s Band of Great Britain. As well as ensembles Paul has had commissions from international soloists such as Brett Baker, Richard Marshall, John Doyle, David Childs and Owen Farr.

Paul was born and raised in the Salvation Army with his parents who were Officers. He was quickly introduced into music by all of his family members who were all keen musicians and keen to keep the family tradition going.

Paul started his musical career by playing the drums at school at the age of twelve. He joined the school band shortly after, which led to an invitation to play for former British Open Champions Kennedy’s Swinton Band. The invitation came from his music teacher and conductor of the band Kevin Bolton.

After school Paul continued to study music at the University of Salford. Paul studied percussion under freelance percussionist Andrew Whettam and he majored in conducting under David King and composing with Peter Graham. In his final year Paul added to his degree success by winning the coveted ‘Roy Newsome Conductors Award’.

Paul realised a lifetime dream come true when he was invited to audition for the position of percussionist at the current European Champions the Williams Fairey Band in 1994. Paul was auditioned and passed, becoming a member of this illustrious band.

Paul quickly made an impact at ‘Faireys’ becoming a regular soloist and also became Principal Percussionist with the Williams Fairey Band. Paul enjoyed many contest successes at Faireys, including becoming North West Area Champion, All England Masters Champion, British Open Champion and National Champion of Great Britain. Paul also enjoyed playing to packed audiences around the world including the United States of America and Brazil and many countries around Europe.

Paul started composing whilst at University, studying under the famous brass and wind band composer Peter Graham. Peter had a great influence over Paul as a mentor, realising Paul’s talents Peter worked closely with his student giving as much help and advice in his musical and compositional development.

On graduating from university Paul earned his Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Manchester Metropolitan University and became a teacher of Music. In 2003 Paul left Faireys to join the world famous Black Dyke Band as percussionist. The professional conductor Dr Nicholas Childs realised Paul's potential as a composer and soon had the band performing his works, starting with the world premier of his Trombone Concerto "Earth's Fury" at Birmingham's Symphony Hall which was recorded and broadcast on BBC's Radio 2.

Since then Paul has been enjoying both playing and composing successes with Black Dyke and with other ensembles worldwide. In 2005 Paul won the Brighthouse and Rastick Band's 125th Anniversary Composers Competition with his piece "West Rydings", beating off many entries from all around the world.

Paul's talents as a composer have attracted attention from various musical circles including the world famous composer Karl Jenkins' latest EMI Classics CD entitled "This Land of Ours" featuring music written and arranged by Karl. However Karl was so impressed with Paul's "Where Eagles Sing" that he included the piece as the finale to the CD. "Where Eagles Sing" was also performed on BBC Radio 2's famous "Friday Night is Music Night" programme by the Coldstream Guards.

Paul's music was featured in the gala concert of the National Championships of Switzerland 2007 by International Soloist David Childs where Paul was the invited guest. Paul's piece "The Dark Side of the Moon" was selected as a test piece for the regional championships 2008 and received performances all over the world. It has also been selected as the test piece for the Dutch National Championships 2008.

Paul has enjoyed writing various works for youth bands; his first "Solar Eclipse" was commissioned by Colin Duxbury and the Stockport Schools Band who performed it at the National Youth Championships of Great Britain in 2000 in which they won. "The Big Top" was composed for the Wardle High School Junior Band as part of their award winning performance at the National Festival of Music for Youth Final at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in 2006.

"Dream Catchers" was commissioned by the National Children's Band of Great Britain in 2007 and has since been performed at York Minster in the summer of 2008 by the Yorkshire Youth Band. Paul has been commissioned by the British Federation of Brass Bands to compose the test piece for the National Youth Championships of Great Britain 2009.

Paul has enjoyed giving master classes on both percussion and composition and taking rehearsals with various ensembles and youth organisations around Europe. He is in high demand as a soloist, conductor and composer with a number of commissioned works in the pipeline for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Paul is continuing to enjoy performing with the Black Dyke Band all round the world and his position as Composer in Association with this illustrious band. He has launched his own website and fans of Paul's music can visit him at plcmusic.com.