

Since its debut in 2002, EXAUDI has emerged as one of Britain's leading young contemporary music ensembles. With a repertoire that encompasses Ockeghem and Ferneyhough, Tallis and Xenakis, EXAUDI has performed to great acclaim throughout the UK and in Europe, and established a ground-breaking and much-praised discography on the British label NMC.

Founded by James Weeks (director) and Juliet Fraser (soprano), EXAUDI is based in London and draws its singers from among the UK's brightest new vocal talents. The ensemble typically works as a consort rather than a choir – usually one voice to a part, ranging from three to sixteen voices – and draws inspiration for its sound from that of early music ensembles, a strong but focused tone that is ideal for the performance of harmonically intricate contemporary music. Many EXAUDI programmes combine the new with the old, and the ensemble is equally in demand for its performances of music of the High Renaissance and early Baroque.

The newest new music is at the heart of EXAUDI's repertoire, and it has given UK and world premières of Sciarrino, Rihm, Finnissy, Skempton, Richard Ayres, Christopher Fox and James Saunders among many others. EXAUDI is particularly committed to the younger generation of composers currently in their twenties and early thirties, and is proud to champion the work of major emerging voices including Evan Johnson, John Habron, Chung Shih Hoh, James Weeks and Claudia Molitor.

Collaboration with other leading soloists and ensembles is an increasing feature of EXAUDI's schedule, including recent appearances with ASKO Ensemble, Apartment House, Anton Lukoszevics, Rohan de Saram, Mieko Kanno, Irvine Arditti and Fretwork. In 2008 they will take part in performances of Birtwistle's Opera *The Last Supper* at 'Settembre Musica' in Milan and Torino.

EXAUDI has appeared at many leading UK venues and festivals, including Aldeburgh, Spitalfields, Petworth, Soundwaves Brighton, City of London, Vale of Glamorgan and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festivals, Dartington International Summer School and London's South Bank (*Fresh* series) and National Portrait Gallery. Recently the ensemble has developed particularly strong links with Aldeburgh Music, resulting in a number of concert appearances, broadcasts and residencies since 2006. EXAUDI broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3, and has released critically acclaimed recordings of Michael Finnissy, Elisabeth Lutyens, Christopher Fox and Howard Skempton on NMC. EXAUDI is in increasing demand throughout Europe; recent engagements include a performance of Ferneyhough's *Missa Brevis* and *Stelae for Failed Time* in the Pompidou Centre, Paris for IRCAM, and in 2007 mixed contemporary programmes for CDMC Madrid and ConTmpos Girona. EXAUDI has twice been shortlisted in the Ensemble category of the RPS Awards, Britain's leading awards for live classical performance, in 2006 and 2007.

Future plans include new recordings of Skempton and Rihm, a third Aldeburgh Residency to work on three new commissions, and a 70-minute new work by Christopher Fox, commissioned by the BBC for Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival 2008.

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