

Héloïse Werner

Soprano, Composer



Héloïse's debut album 'Phrases' is Héloïse's debut album 'Phrases' is [out now on Delphian Records](#) and Gramophone Magazine Editor's Choice ("extraordinary range, tone and vocal abilities (...) composer of subtle imagination"), Presto Classical Editor's Choice ("absolute tour de force"), BBC Music Magazine Choral/Song Choice (****), Album of the week in The Times (****) and described by Apple Music as "a staggering debut from an imaginative and original voice".

Recipient of the Michael Cuddigan Trust Award 2018 and Linda Hirst Contemporary Vocal Prize 2017, French-born and London-based soprano and composer Héloïse Werner was one of the four shortlisted nominees in the Young Artist category of the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards 2017 and one of BBC Radio 3's 31 under 31 Young Stars 2020.

As a soprano, Héloïse has recently made her debut with the London Chamber Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Nash Ensemble, and appeared in The Grange Festival's production of *Precipice* as the singing narrator. She also premiered Freya Waley-Cohen's *Spell Book (Volume 2)* for soprano and string quartet at Conway Hall, written for her and the Tippett Quartet, which they will perform again at the Wigmore Hall in 2023.

As a composer, Héloïse has written for musicians including violist Lawrence Power, bassoonist Amy Harman, pianist Mishka Rushdie Momen, mezzo-soprano Marielou Jacquard, pianist Kunal Lahiry, violinist Fenella Humphreys, mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston, The Gesualdo Six, The Bach Choir, CoMA, mezzo-soprano Grace Durham and Miller-Porfiris Duo. 2022/23 commissions include new works for Radio France (x2), CBSO, Wigmore Hall, Aurora Orchestra, Clare Choir Cambridge and London Handel Festival. A selected list of her works is available [here](#).

In 2019, Héloïse performed her solo opera *The Other Side of the Sea* at Kings Place as part of their Venus Unwrapped series ("you can't help but be dazzled by it" **** The Times). Written in collaboration with poet Octavia Bright, director Emily Burns and visual artist Jessie Rodger, the opera explores language and

identity. It was first premiered in London & Aldeburgh in 2018, with generous support from The Michael Cuddigan Trust, and developed in 2017 during a Snape Maltings residency under the mentorship of Zoë Martlew. In 2016, Héloïse starred in Jonathan Woolgar's acclaimed one-woman opera *Scenes from the End* at London's Tristan Bates Theatre, following on from successful runs at the Camden and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals.

Héloïse is also soprano and co-director for contemporary quartet [The Hermes Experiment](#) (soprano, clarinet, harp and double bass). They won the RPS Young Artist Award 2021 and the Royal Over-Seas League Mixed Ensemble Competition 2019. Capitalising on their deliberately idiosyncratic combination of instruments, the ensemble regularly commissions new works (over 60 to date), as well as creating their own innovative arrangements and venturing into live free improvisation. They have released two albums, both on Delphian Records, to critical acclaim – [HERE WE ARE](#) (Presto Classical Recording of the Year, Gramophone Editor's Choice, The Guardian's 10 Best Contemporary Albums of 2020) and [SONG](#) (Gramophone Editor's Choice).

Héloïse was born in Paris and was a member of the 'Maîtrise de Radio France' for six years. At the same time, she studied the cello at the Conservatoire Maurice Ravel with Valérie Aimard. She then read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where she was a choral scholar. At Cambridge, she studied composition with Giles Swayne and won the 2011 Clare College Carol Competition. In 2009, she was awarded the 'Creation Prize' from the Conservatoire Maurice Ravel for her songs for piano and voice, which she performed as part of her cello final diploma. She completed her vocal studies with Alison Wells and coach Anna Tilbrook on the MMus course at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance as a Linda Pilgrim Charitable Trust Scholar and a Help Musicians UK Postgraduate Award holder.

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