
Tess Jackson

Conductor

Britten Sinfonia, Bristol Beacon, BBC Proms (August 2025)

"Tess Jackson, NYO's associate conductor and a former orchestra member, was on the podium for the Higgins. She was an absolutely steady, clear presence, thoughtfully shaping this five-movement work. [...] This performance had many highlights: the way Jackson conjured real anticipation in the opening hush; awe-inspiring chords that gathered in power; expressive and true cornet solos; and powerful metallic, percussive industrial sounds, evoking the thwacks of pickaxes striking coal." – **Rebecca Franks, *The Times***

"notable was Gavin Higgins's *Rough Voices*, a Proms pandemic commission, conducted here by Tess Jackson. A cry of anger at how the poorest were affected by Covid, this uncomfortable piece's message still rings true, expressed as a tussle between dissonant outbursts and serene strings." – **Rebecca Franks, *The Times***

"*Rough Voices* by Gloucestershire-born Gavin Higgins, a musical response to the pandemic, saw conductor Tess Jackson as well as a brass section join proceedings, with crashing trumpets rudely interrupting the strings. The music was *Jaws*-like at times, something dangerous lurking not too far from the surface" – **Martin Booth, *B24/7***

The Royal Northern Sinfonia - CBeebies Prom, The Glasshouse, Gateshead (July 2025)

"The Royal Northern Sinfonia, under the capable baton of Tess Jackson, was at the heart of the performance, providing a dynamic and often playful underscore to the adventure. Conductor Tess Jackson even joined in the presentation, adding to the interactive feel." – **Chris Caspell, *Classical Source***

Catalyst: The National Youth Orchestra and The National Youth Brass Band, Royal Festival Hall (April 2025)

"Conductor Tess Jackson was impressively disciplined and drew a terrific performance from all her players, keeping the large forces under control yet letting the young players' energy and enthusiasm shine through." – **Planet Hugill**

"Tess Jackson drew an immensely mature response from her players (the main soloists of the NYBBGB in particular) – tautly balancing the subsidiary role of the orchestra in response to the core of bubbling metallic expression sat around her. It was a triumph of collaborative ambition and artistry." – **Iwan Fox, *4barsrest***

"Conducted by Tess Jackson, one-time NYO violinist and a Classic FM "rising star", these teenage players made light work of Gavin Higgins's *Concerto Grosso* for Brass Band and Orchestra." – **Fiona Maddocks, *The Guardian***

National Youth Orchestra, BBC Proms (August 2024)

"It was a near miraculous feat of coordination from [Tess Jackson](#), conducting in 360." – **Flora Wilson, *The Guardian***

"Tess Jackson has everything it takes to succeed as conductor – engaging manner, clear gestures, centered authority...let's hope the NYO invites her back to negotiate repertoire classics" – **David Nice, *The ArtDesk***

Bach *St Matthew Passion* (Arias), The Bach Choir, Royal Festival Hall (March 2024)

"All solo singers delivered their parts with utmost professionalism but two, in particular, caught my ears: soprano Nardus Williams and tenor Joshua Ellicott used their beautiful voices for nuanced phrasing and dynamics as well dramatic storytelling. – **Agnes Kory, *Seen and Heard International***