

Biography for harp performances

Paul Patterson is one of the most versatile, successful and internationally-respected British composers of his generation. His works are frequently performed by leading international orchestras, ensembles and soloists, and he also has a substantial discography. His composition style of challenging but idiomatic writing has resulted in many of his solo works have been chosen as set pieces for international competitions in Europe, Australia, Israel, Thailand and the USA.

Patterson's increasing international reputation as one of the foremost contemporary composers for the harp began with the popularity of Spiders. He has a special interest in composing for the instrument and has since written many works for solo harp. In 2013 his Spider's Web for harp and string orchestra was premièred in Kufstein, Austria by Gwyneth Wentink and in 2014 his Fantasia for solo harp and orchestra was the set piece for the Dutch International Harp Competition in Utrecht. More works are being commissioned currently, and he has been invited to be the featured composer at the International Harp Congress in Hong Kong in 2017, his 70th birthday year.

Recent recordings include his complete music for harp with the RAM harp alumnae on the SFZ label. Bugs and Spiders have also recently been released on Channel Classics with Dutch harpist Lavinia Meijer.

Patterson is Manson Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music and visiting professor at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. His awards include the Royal Philharmonic Society, Leslie Boosey Award (1996) in recognition of his service to British music and in 2010 he was awarded the Gold Medal from the Polish Ministry of Culture.