

## Press Release

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## Sohrab Uduman wins Britten Sinfonia's OPUS2016 competition for unpublished composers

53-year-old composer, **Sohrab Uduman**, has won OPUS2016, Britten Sinfonia's open submission scheme for unpublished composers.

OPUS offers unrepresented composers a rare opportunity not just to write a new piece for the orchestra's award-winning lunchtime series, but also to work with Britten Sinfonia's outstanding chamber musicians in the development of their work. Since it started in 2012, OPUS has attracted over 500 applications from composers of all ages and experience, providing a fascinating and valuable snapshot of the range and variety of unrepresented composers across the UK.

OPUS2016's winner, **Sohrab Uduman**, who has been commissioned to write a new piano trio to be premiered in the orchestra's lunchtime series in December 2016, emerged from a shortlist of ten composers, and from over 280 applications by composers nationwide. The oldest OPUS winner to date\*, he was selected as the competition winner following a weekend of intensive public workshops, which included performances, recording and discussion of all ten shortlisted works, and a one-to-one 'instrument surgery' with Britten Sinfonia musicians.

**Sohrab Uduman** impressed the jury, led by composer **Julian Philips**, and featuring OPUS2015 winner **Edward Nesbit** and Britten Sinfonia musicians, with his virtuosic notation, and "*bracing, invigorating music*" that left them with "*curiosity and impatience to see how the work might develop*".

**David Butcher**, Chief Executive of Britten Sinfonia comments: "*Over the past four years, OPUS has allowed us to track the range of unpublished talent across the UK. The overwhelming picture is positive – up and down the country, composers are hard at work - but the opportunities for live performance remain few and far between, especially for those without the support of a publisher. This appears to be reflected in the scope of applications we received this year - from amateur composers, those at a formative stage in their musical development and, as is the case with Sohrab, more mature composers, all of whom mirror Britten Sinfonia in their commitment and passion for creating new music.*"

**Jen House**, Director of Creative Learning at Britten Sinfonia comments:

*"OPUS has an inclusive approach, and whilst there can only be one winner, the competition has been designed to offer tangible and valuable support to shortlisted composers through intensive workshops with our brilliant musicians, and to unsuccessful applicants, who are invited to observe and participate in the workshops, and to engage the public, with an intriguing, rare insight into the composition process. We are tremendously excited to work with Sohrab over the next few months, to hearing his commission in 2017, and to the ongoing development of OPUS."*

**Sohrab Uduman** comments:

*"I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with Britten Sinfonia, especially since, quite apart from being great musicians, they are open and receptive to the musical ideas and perspectives on sound that interest me."*

**Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787  
sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk**

[www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com)

[www.sohrabuduman.co.uk/](http://www.sohrabuduman.co.uk/)

\*The first three OPUS competitions were won by young composers Ryan Latimer, Patrick John James and Edward Nesbit.

Notes to editors: Britten Sinfonia has commissioned or premiered over 100 new works across all its concerts in the past seven years alone, with over 45 in the first decade of its 'At Lunch' series. In addition, the orchestra introduces school children to composing through regular sessions in schools. Its annual composition workshop for Cambridge University composition students (which is led each year by Britten Sinfonia musicians and a leading composer - including John Woolrich, Oliver Knussen, James MacMillan and Nico Muhly) has resulted in a number of commissions for young composers.

[www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com)