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**DANIÉL BJARNASON NAMED COMPOSER OF THE YEAR AT ICELANDIC MUSIC AWARDS  
FOR 2012 WORKS COMMISSIONED BY LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC AND  
CO-COMMISSIONED BY LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS AND  
AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY**

**Winning Compositions Include  
*Over Light Earth*,  
Commissioned by Los Angeles Philharmonic  
and  
*The Isle Is Full Of Noises*,  
Co-Commissioned by Los Angeles Children's Chorus and American Youth Symphony,**

Noted composer Daníel Bjarnason took home top honors when he was named Composer of the Year at the Icelandic Music Awards for his 2012 compositions *Over Light Earth*, commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and *The isle is full of noises*, co-commissioned by the Los Angeles Children's Chorus and the American Youth Symphony. The awards ceremony was held on February 20, 2013, in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The two works were premiered by the commissioning organizations at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on separate occasions last year.

James Conlon conducted co-commissioners Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) and the American Youth Symphony (AYS) in the world premiere of *The isle is full of noises*, which is based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, on March 4, 2012, at Walt Disney Concert Hall, as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Sounds About Town series. The *Pasadena Sun* states, "The challenging work brings 'The Tempest' to haunting musical life with 12-part vocal textures, harmonic chord clusters, vocal slides and humming." The *San Gabriel Tribune* proclaims it "an intriguing cantata" and *All Is Yar* declared the work for treble choir and orchestra "the highlight of the night...rhythmically straightforward but harmonically complex."

Says LACC Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson, "We congratulate Daniel on this extremely prestigious – and well deserved – honor. It speaks volumes about his incredible talent and artistry. Collaborating with him on *The isle is full of noises*, which is skillfully and beautifully written, was a true pleasure."

Adds AYS Music Director Alexander Treger, “It is an honor for AYS and LACC to be the impetus for this piece. Its broad range of musical sound color reflects Daníel’s own eclectic musical background.”

Deborah Borda, President and CEO of the LA Phil states, “We have a successful and ongoing relationship with composer Daniel Bjarnason. The piece commissioned by the LA Philharmonic has helped result in Daniel winning this award. We are thrilled that our platform in Los Angeles has highlighted one of the world’s most interesting young voices. We wish Daniel every success and look forward to working with him again during the 2013/14 season since we have commissioned a full orchestral work from him for our North American tour.”

The Los Angeles Philharmonic, led by LA Phil Creative Chair John Adams, premiered Bjarnason’s *Over Light Earth*, which was commissioned by the orchestra, on October 16, 2012, at Walt Disney Concert Hall, in the first Green Umbrella series concert of the 2012/13 season. The *Los Angeles Times*, states Bjarnason writes “beguilingly smooth music, often made up of lapping, enthralling repetitions” and noted “the score bristled with energy.” Inspired by paintings of Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollack, *Over Light Earth* was also described as “shimmering” by *Bach Track*.

Bjarnason garnered widespread acclaim for his debut album, *Processions* (2010), with *Time Out NY* declaring that Bjarnason “create(s) a sound that comes eerily close to defining classical music’s undefinable brave new world.” Both a conductor and composer, he has worked with a range of ensembles, including the London Sinfonietta, Ulster Orchestra and Sinfonietta Cracovia. He also regularly conducts both the Icelandic Opera and Iceland Symphony Orchestra. Bjarnason has won numerous awards and grants and has twice been awarded a special recommendation for his work at the International Rostrum for Composers. In 2010, he was nominated for the prestigious Nordic Council’s Music Prize and won the Kraumur Music Award. The same year, *Processions* won the coveted Best Composer/Best Composition categories at the Icelandic Music Awards. Bjarnason’s versatility as an arranger and conductor has led to collaborations with a broad array of musicians outside the classical field, including Sigur Rós, Efterklang, múm and Ólöf Arnalds, among others.

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2/26/13