

## Press Release

For Immediate Release

### ***Joanna Marsh Unveils New Album: A Plastic Theatre – A Landmark Collection of Her Newest Choral Works***



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London, UK – [29th November 2024] – Award-winning composer Joanna Marsh, hailed by *The Guardian* as “one of today’s leading composers for the voice,” will release her highly anticipated album, *A Plastic Theatre*, on 31st January 2025. The album invites listeners into Marsh’s distinctive soundworld, exploring humanity’s complex relationship with the natural world while offering glimmers of hope and renewal in times of crisis.

## About the Album

- Spanning over an hour of music, *A Plastic Theatre* is anchored by its dramatic five-movement title work for massed choirs and orchestra. Commissioned by the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Trondheim Symphony Orchestra**, the piece meditates on the paradox of plastic—a material indispensable to modern life yet fraught with environmental challenges.
- This focus aligns seamlessly with the album's broader themes, reflecting on humanity's evolving connection with the world around us and showcasing Marsh's remarkable ability to tailor her writing to the distinct voices and personalities of each ensemble and text.
- The album features performances by internationally acclaimed ensembles and artists with whom Marsh has developed enduring creative partnerships:
  - **I Fagiolini**
  - **VOCES8**
  - **The Lyons Mouth**
  - **Stile Antico**
  - **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Youth Choir and Children's Choir**
  - Mezzo-Soprano **Jennifer Johnson**
- Each piece explores humanity's place within the larger story of the planet, grappling with themes of concern and crisis. Yet woven throughout is a thread of hope, a reminder that even in moments of darkness, light and resilience can prevail.
- Available on 31st January 2025, and starts off a busy year of commissions from groups such as **Zero8**, **Chanticleer**, **Chichester Cathedral Choir** and **RIAS Kammerchor** and is released straight off the back of her **Ivor Novello Choral Award Nomination** for *Batter My Heart*, the first single released from the album.
- Marks the end of a busy year with commissions and premieres from **Wells Cathedral Choir**, **St Mary's Church Edinburgh**, **Phoenix Chorale**, **St John's College Cambridge** and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra and Opera.

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## Advance Singles

In anticipation of the album, four singles will be released as a prelude to the full album:

1. ***Batter My Heart*** ([Release Date: December 3, 2024](#))
  - Nominated for the 2024 **Ivor Novello Composer Award** (Choral Category).
  - A dramatic setting of John Donne's sonnet, the premiere recording performed by **I Fagiolini**.
  - [Full performance video](#) from the recording sessions available now & recently featured as **Gramophone Magazine's** Video of the Day.
2. ***All Shall Be Well*** (Release Date: **December 30, 2024**)

- Winner of the 2022 **Ivor Novello Composer Award** (Choral Category).
  - A radiant, optimistic setting of Julian of Norwich's texts, blending medieval lines and contemporary harmonies.
  - [Full performance video](#) from the recording session to be made available on YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music.
3. ***In Winter's House*** (Release Date: **January 14, 2025**)
- Marsh's most widely performed work, a premiere recording of this new SATB arrangement.
  - Originally commissioned by the internationally renowned ensemble, **Tenebrae**.
  - A haunting and evocative piece inspired by Jane Draycott's poetic winter landscape.
  - [Full performance video](#) from the recording session to be made available on YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music.
4. ***Act V from A Plastic Theatre*** (Release Date: **January 30, 2025**)
- The album's climactic focus track, capturing the humanity, hope, and mystery at the heart of the work.

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### **Praise for Joanna Marsh**

- *"One of today's leading composers for the voice."* – *The Guardian*
- *"A composer with an extraordinary ability to capture text and translate it into music."* – *BBC Music Magazine*
- *"Of all the new choral music I've looked at in the last few years, it's Joanna's that really sticks out for me with an alchemic mix of craft, inspiration and real singability."* – Robert Hollingworth, Director of I Fagiolini

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### **Pre-order and Streaming Information**

*A Plastic Theatre* pre-order and advance singles available now on Spotify, Apple Music, and all major platforms. For more information, visit:

<https://lnk.to/MarshPlasticTheatre>

The **full album is available to stream** for press contacts [here](#).

For Joanna's biography, visual assets, including album cover and sleeve, please visit our [PR folder](#).

**Signum Records** is a leading British independent label, specialising in classical music. Founded in 1997, Signum boasts a catalogue of over 900 titles collectively streamed over 650 million times and continues to release 40+ new recordings each year by internationally acclaimed artists. Signum works closely with its sister company, Floating Earth, the leading production and engineering specialist service provider in Europe.

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**For press interview requests, exclusive airplay premieres, video slots, or more information please contact:**

Ailsa Campbell

[ailsa@joannamarsh.co.uk](mailto:ailsa@joannamarsh.co.uk)

07860951343

<https://joannamarsh.co.uk/>