

## Judith Weir, CBE – Master of the Queen’s Music

### MRF Patron

Judith Weir was born into a Scottish family in 1954, but grew up near London. As resident composer with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the 1990s, she wrote several works for orchestra and chorus (including *Forest*, *Storm* and *We are Shadows*) which were premiered by the orchestra’s then Music Director, Simon Rattle.

In recent years, Judith Weir has considerably expanded her choral catalogue, with regular performance by choirs worldwide of music such as her Christmas carol *Illuminare*, *Jerusalem* written for Stephen Cleobury and the choir of King’s College Cambridge.

Now based in London, she has had a long association with Spitalfields Music Festival; and has taught as a visiting professor at Princeton, Harvard and Cardiff universities. Honours for her work include the Critics’ Circle, South Bank Show, Ivor Novello and Elise L Stoeger awards, a CBE and The Queen’s Medal for Music.

In July 2014 Judith Weir was appointed to the 395-year old royal post of Master of the Queen’s Music, in succession to Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Amongst her priorities in this role are the support of school music teachers, of amateur orchestras and choirs, and of rural festivals. In this role she has written music for national and royal occasions, including the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations and the UK’s official commemoration of the 1918 Armistice.

Judith Weir’s music has been widely recorded, particularly on the NMC and Delphian labels; and is published by Chester Music and Novello & Co.

Judith became a [Patron for MRF](#) in 2018, supporting our Showcase Concert at Borough New Music that November, and at our first on-line [workshop, May 2020](#). Having joined us at our [Feb '21 workshop](#), we are delighted that she will be ‘in conversation’ with Festival ‘21 composers on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Borough New Music 2018 MRF showcase with Judith Weir.

