

Rosamond Prize Winners

Manchester composer Michael Betteridge and poet Lynn Pegler have struck the right note in the prestigious Rosamond Prize competition.

Organised jointly by the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), the competition is designed to forge new collaborations between MMU's creative writing students and composers studying at RNCM.

Michael and Lynn won the prize with *Bertha Birtwhistle's Superstition Mission*, a humorous poem by Lynn, which Michael set to music for voice and wind quintet.

The partnership was initiated after a 'speed dating' session to match up RNCM composers and MMU poets in February.

At the competition concert, student contralto Rebecca Starling performed the role of Bertha Birtwhistle, who "is on a mission to eradicate superstition."

Michael said: "It's fantastic to have our work endorsed by winning the Rosamond Prize. Coincidentally I started composing this piece on Friday 13th April, which just goes to prove that 13 is a lucky number for some."

Michael, a post-graduate composition student, and Lynn, a public relations consultant studying part-time for an MA in creative writing, both hope to continue their winning partnership and develop new work in the future.



Photo: (left to right) Lynn Pegler, Michael Betteridge and Rebecca Starling, after winning the Rosamond Prize at the Royal Northern College of Music.

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