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Former Royston composer to have music recorded for BBC Radio Three

A composer who grew up and developed her musical talent in Royston will have her work recorded by BBC Radio Three.

Jenni Pinnock, 26, was one of just five composers from around the country to be chosen from the 2013-14 Adopt a Composer scheme, which is run by Making Music and Sound and Music.

The initiative pairs emerging composers with amateur ensembles, giving them the opportunity to create a musical piece



Jenni was partnered with the Quangle Wangle Choir from Weymouth, whose name comes from the Edward Lear poem The Quangle Wangle's Hat.

She said: "It started off as a mothers' and babies group and over the years it's developed into a 60-strong choir, which is wonderful.

"They work in a different way to most ensembles.

"They don't read music, which is quite strange.

"I've had experience working with choirs before, so I think they though I would be able to cope with this."

Together, they have come up with Quangle Quadrille, which is based around the shipping forecast and the journey of migratory birds across Dorset to Portland, before they cross the Channel.

"The ideas for the topic of the piece came from the Quangles themselves," said Jenni.

"I then asked them for appropriate words, phrases and poetry, which I then used alongside some quotations from literature to compile into the final text."

Jenni has been composing music since she was a student at the Meridian School in Royston, where she also met her now husband, Tom, 26, with whom she has a daughter, Isabelle, aged two.

She particularly credits music teacher Jenny Warburton, who still works at the school.

She said: "She was wonderful and kept pushing me to do bigger things

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and do music at university.

"I've always loved composing but it was at that point that I realised it was what I wanted to do.

"I think without the school I wouldn't be where I am today."

Jenni, who currently lives in Basildon in Essex but will soon be moving to Papworth in Cambridgeshire, has had her music featured at venues across the UK and Europe.

She said: "I write mainly classical music but it's accessible.

"Everyone can listen to it and get what's going on.

"It's not complex.

"I've been described as 'accessible but not patronising'."

Jenni was paired with the choir in October la : year and met with them to work on their music in January, February ıd April.

They performed their song in Dorset for the first time on Saturday, but it will officially premiere in Weymouth on Saturday September 20, when it will be recorded by BBC Radio Three.

Jenni said: "The choir has been wonderful to work with.

"They are an a cappella choir, which is voice only.

"It's pretty brave to sing with no accompaniment."

This is the first major ensemble project Jenni has worked on.

Jenni is planning to apply for funding to work on other big schemes.

She said: "I want to get my music out there to everyone."

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