

Long biography (336 words)

Helena Zyskowska (b. 2003, Warsaw, Poland) is a Manchester-based composer whose work explores fragile sonorities and nuanced musical expressions. She has worked with **the Hallé Orchestra, BBC Singers, Heather Roche, CoMA Manchester**, and many RNCM ensembles. Career highlight to date include receiving the 2nd prize at the Composers Song Writing Competition 2023 organised by the Association of English Singers and Speakers (AESS).

Zyskowska has been selected to attend the Summer Composers' Lab with **Yannis Kyriakides** and the **Athens State Orchestra** in August 2025. She will also take part in the **RNCM Gold Medal Competition Final** in June 2025 - the highest prize awarded at the Royal Northern College of Music. She has worked closely with the **RNCM Wind Orchestra** for the past two years receiving a commission for a new work as well as a concert performance of her previous composition in November 2023.

Being granted a scholarship, Helena continues her composition studies with acclaimed composers at the **Royal Northern College of Music** in Manchester (UK) - Professor Emily Howard and Professor David Horne. She writes for a variety of instruments, both acoustic and electronic, and her completed works include pieces written for: symphony orchestra, wind orchestra, chamber choir, and youth brass band among others.

Helena grew up around the vibrant music scene of Warsaw. At the age of 9, she went to PSM I st. im. Fryderyka Chopina in Warsaw where she trained as a pianist, receiving awards and honours such as the **1st prize at the 23rd International Chopin Festival in Mazovia in 2015** or **The Best Instrumentalist of the Year** in her music school in 2016. Pursuing her performance studies at PSM II st. im. Józefa Elsnera in Warsaw, Helena studied under the supervision of Professor Beata Wałęcka. After coming to England in 2020, Helena got introduced to composition for the first time. Her studies with Dr Matthew Ward led her to receive a scholarship to attend the **Sound and Music Summer School** in August 2021 where she worked with Professor David Horne.