



DR SHIRLEY J THOMPSON OBE: COMPOSER, VIOLINIST, FILMMAKER

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"Thompson's extraordinary symphony work, *New Nation Rising*, should be heard by as wide an audience as possible..." WHPK FM - Chicago radio station

"A leading voice in the world of contemporary classical music..."
Classic FM

The music of composer Shirley J. Thompson is performed and screened worldwide and often described as "beautiful and powerful."

Shirley was born in London, UK, of Jamaican parents. Her early musical experience included playing the violin in various youth symphony orchestras in London, and choral singing with local choirs in Newham. She graduated in music from Liverpool University and in composition from Goldsmiths' College after studying with Professor Stanley Glasser.

A visionary artist and cultural activist, Shirley is the first woman in Europe to have composed and conducted a symphony within the last 40 years, *New Nation Rising*.

This epic musical story, recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, celebrates London's thousand-year history. It was originally commissioned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the concept was used as a framework for the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Shirley was the first female executive of the Association of Professional Composers. She was named in the Evening Standard's 'Power List of Britain's Top 100 Most Influential Black People every year from 2010 to 2016.