Emily Howard’s music is known for its particular connection with science. Her 2016 BBC Proms Commission Torus (Concerto for Orchestra), described by The Times as “visionary” and by The Guardian as “one of this year’s finest new works”, won the orchestral category of the 2017 British Composer Awards. BBC Radio 3’s Record Review described her NMC Debut Disc Magnetite as “a confident, major orchestral debut”, hailing its “scientific ideas brilliantly articulated”.

Magnetite (Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra / Vasily Petrenko) commissioned by Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008, first won Howard critical acclaim the year she received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Composers. Works include Solar (London Symphony Orchestra / Nicholas Collon, 2010); Calculus of the Nervous System (Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra / Sir James MacMillan; Wien Modern 2011 and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra / Andris Nelsons; BBC Proms 2012); Mesmerism (2011), commissioned for pianist Alexandra Dariescu, which won a 2012 British Composer Award; Axon (BBC Philharmonic / Juanjo Mena; 2013); Aference (Elias String Quartet, 2015); sphere (Bamberg Symphony Orchestra / Alondra de la Parra; 2017); The Music of Proof (Piatti Quartet, mathematician Marcus du Sautoy, New Scientist Live 2017); and mini-operas Ada sketches (Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre, 2012) and Zátopek! (New Music 20x12, London Cultural Olympiad).

Howard was a featured composer at the Aldeburgh Festival 2018 with the world premiere of her opera To See The Invisible, an Aldeburgh Festival Commission. She will present three new works in 2019: The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo, a major new work for orchestra, chorus and soloists with a text by Michael Symmons Roberts, commissioned by Manchester International Festival and BBC Philharmonic; a chamber work as part of a day-long exploration of the work of Ada Lovelace curated by the composer with Britten Sinfonia for the Barbican Centre; and a new orchestral score Antisphere for Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra to open their 2019/20 season.