

The Purcell School's International Online Composition Academy

We are delighted to be able to launch The Purcell School's first International Online Composition Academy.

The Composition Academy will deliver a part-time programme of online study for young composers who would like to develop their composition skills and write an instrumental and/or voice piece. As part of the programme, students will work with a composition teacher and instrumentalists on their own music, and explore aspects of technique, notation, instrumental writing and concept development.

Young composers of secondary school age (9-18 years) living in the UK and overseas are eligible to apply.

Programme Information

The Composition Academy will run for 3 days at 3 times during the academic year (9 days in total). Applicants who are interviewed and accepted onto the programme will be expected to attend all 9 days.

Dates (2020-2021):

Monday 26th – Wednesday 28th October 2020

Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th February 2021

Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th April 2021

Times: 10.00 a.m. – *6.00/7.00 p.m.
(*this will vary depending upon age of student)

Ages: 9 to 18

Programme Delivery Online

The Composition Academy will be run via Zoom, in accordance with The Purcell School's [Online Safety and Safeguarding Policies](#).

There will be virtual breakout rooms allocated to each class, and a member of staff available all day to help with questions, logistics and any unexpected problems. There will also be an online Common Room for students from around the world to meet each other, relax and chat during breaks in between classes and workshops.



Young composers who apply and are accepted will be allocated to one of the categories below.

There will be between 4 and 6 students in each group.

Lower School (Students aged 9-12)

Middle School (Students aged 13-15)

Senior School (Students aged 16-18)

SESSION 1: Monday 26th – Wednesday 28th October 2020

Day 1: Monday 26th October 2020

Times (UK time zone)	Lower School	Middle School	Senior School
10.00 a.m.	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome
10.15 - 11.15 a.m.	Music Technology Learning the basics of composing with sampled electronic sounds	Musicianship 1 Learning conducting skills combined with aural training	Musicianship 2 Contextual Topics. Focus classes on music history, stylistic harmony and aesthetics
11.15 – 11.30 a.m.	Break	Break	Break
11.30 – 12.30 p.m.	Musicianship 1 An introduction to conducting, combined with enjoyable methods of aural training, including quiz games)	Music Technology An introduction to composition using samples and synthesis geared to different levels of experience	Musicianship 2 (continued)
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Break (lunch)	Break (lunch)	Break (lunch)
1.30 – 2.30 p.m.	Score Reading ‘Music & Painting’. Looking at different ways that composers have responded to works by visual artists.	Musicianship 2 Focus classes on music history and style and music theory	Music Technology Composition using samples and synthesis, pitched at different levels of experience
2.30 – 3.00 p.m.	Musicianship 2 Focus classes on music history and style and music theory	Analysis and Score Reading ‘Outside sources and the extra-musical’ Studying composers who have used sources outside music for inspiration in their work	Musicianship 1 Conducting for voices and instruments combined with personalised aural training
3.00 – 3.30 p.m.	Break	Break	Break
3.30 – 4.00 p.m.	Musicianship 2 (continued)	Analysis and Score Reading (continued)	Musicianship 1 (continued)
4.00 – 4.30 p.m.	Composition Seminar This will be a lively lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting composer	Tutor Group A chance for the group to meet with Alison Cox to plan for the next day and feedback about the day’s activities	Analysis and Score Reading Studying non-western music and its influence, French spretralism, IRCAM and the Pierrot Ensemble

4.30 – 5.00 p.m.	Composition Seminar (continued)	Individual preparation time with tutor on call	Analysis and Score Reading (continued)
5.00 – 5.15 p.m.	Break	Break	Break
5.15 – 6.00 p.m.	Tutor Group A chance for the group to meet with Alison Cox and plan for the next day. Also to feed back about the day's activities	Composition Seminar This will be a lively lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting composer. With the Senior School composers	Composition Seminar This will be a lively lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting composer. With the Middle School composers
6.00 – 6.30 p.m.	Finish	Composition Seminar (continue)	Composition Seminar (continued)
6.30 – 7.00 p.m.		Finish	Tutor Group A chance for the group to meet with Alison Cox to plan for the next day and feedback about the day's activities

Day 2: Tuesday 27th October 2020

Special Project: Composition for Voice and Piano, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Key Tutor: Irina Walters, Aural Teacher and Choral Conductor, The Purcell School

The main focus of Day 2 will be a special project which will enable students to write a composition for voice and piano in a single day. The day will be run by professional composers and signers, and the whole academy will take part.

Students will select a traditional folk tune from their own country and use it to create a composition.

Lower School (Students aged 9 -12) will be writing for a selected voice and piano

Middle School (Students aged 13-15) will compose a piece for vocal duet and piano

Senior School (Students aged 16-18) will write for a vocal trio and piano

A variety of compositional types will be encouraged, including pieces for individual and choral voices.

The compositions will be rehearsed and recorded in a studio by professional singers, and premiered in a virtual YouTube concert at the close of Day 3 (7 p.m.).



Day 3: Wednesday 28th October 2020

Times (UK time zone)	Lower School	Middle School	Senior School
10.00 a.m.	Whole Group Meeting	Whole Group Meeting	Whole Group Meeting
10.15 - 11.15 a.m.	Music Technology Expanding the use of sampled sounds to create exciting textures, timbres and rhythmic elements	Musicianship 1 Developing and reinforcing conducting techniques and aural skills learned on Day 1	Musicianship 2 Contextual topics. Focus classes on music history, stylistic harmony and aesthetics
11.15 – 11.30 p.m.	Break	Break	Break
11.30 – 12.30 p.m.	Musicianship 1 Continuing to develop all the basic conducting skills and aural training exercises started in Day 1	Music Technology Further exploration and experimentation of music using samples and synthesis. Creating unusual sonic elements as building blocks for composition	Musicianship 2 (continued)
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Break (lunch)	Break (lunch)	Break (lunch)
1.30 – 2.30 p.m.	Score Reading ‘Music & Painting’. Continuing to study music inspired by visual art	Musicianship 2	Music Technology Developing previously made and sampled material into a full-length composition
2.30 – 3.00 p.m.	Musicianship 2 Focus classes on music history and style and music theory	Analysis and Score Reading ‘Outside sources and the extra-musical’ Further study of composers who have used sources outside music for inspiration in their work	Musicianship 1 Conducting for voices and instruments combined with personalised aural training
3.00 – 3.30 p.m.	Break	Break	Break
3.30 – 4.00 p.m.	Musicianship 2 (continued)	Analysis and Score Reading (continued)	Aural Training and basics of Conducting
4.00 – 4.30 p.m.	Composition Seminar A lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting musician who will give practical hints on writing for their instrument.	Tutor Group Feedback on the project and a chance for the group to prepare for the evening’s concert.	Analysis and Score Reading Studying non-western music and its influence, French spectralism, IRCAM and the Pierrot Ensemble.
4.30 – 5.00 p.m.	Composition Seminar (continued)	Individual preparation time with tutor on call	Analysis and Score Reading (continued)
5.00 – 5.15 p.m.	Break	Break	Break

5.15 – 6.00 p.m.	Tutor Group Feedback on the project and a chance to prepare their presentations for the evening's concert	Composition Seminar The seminar this evening will give young composers a chance to learn how to write for an instrument that is unfamiliar to them (e.g. harp, viola, sitar, kora)	Composition Seminar The seminar this evening will give young composers a chance to learn how to write for an instrument that is unfamiliar to them (e.g. Harp, viola, sitar, kora)
6.00 – 6.30 p.m.	Finish (prepare for concert)	Composition Seminar (continued)	Composition Seminar (continued)
6.30 – 7.00 p.m.		Finish (prepare for concert)	Tutor Group Feedback on the three days and a chance to prepare for the evening's concert

7 p.m.	Virtual Concert of New Music Professional performances via Zoom and YouTube of the vocal and piano pieces composed during Day 2. Each young composer will introduce their own work. Parents, friends and tutors will be invited to take part.
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Sessions 2 and 3

Detailed agendas for Session 2 (15th – 17th February 2021) and Session 3 (12th – 14th April 2021) will be published at a later date. Both sessions will, however, follow a similar format to Session 1. Session 2 and 3 highlights are listed below.

Session 2 Highlight

Special Project: Jazz Composition Day

Key Tutor: Simon Allen, Head of Jazz, The Purcell School

The project will cover composition through improvisation, harmonic composition, rhythmic composition and historic jazz composition.

Session 3 Highlight

Special Project: Composing for Film Day

Key Tutor: Aidan Goetzee, Head of Music Technology, The Purcell School

‘Composing for Film’ will allow students to work with professional session musicians and learn how to write effectively for acoustic instruments within a film score. They will also learn about the process of recording and syncing music to film; how to respond to a producer’s brief; about film music harmonic techniques; electronic sound manipulation; and much more.

Composition Academy Faculty

The Online Composition Academy will be staffed by some of The Purcell School's most distinguished educators and industry professionals. Alison Cox, who is Head of Composition at The Purcell School, will be overseeing the Academy as a whole, and the key tutors in each area are listed below.

Composition Academy Director

Alison Cox, Head of Composition, The Purcell School

Composition

Simon Speare, Composition Teacher, The Purcell School

Joseph Phibbs, Composition Teacher, The Purcell School

Analysis and Score Reading

Daniel Fardon, Academic Music Tutor, The Purcell School

Musicianship

Andrew Williams, Academic Music Teacher, The Purcell School

Irina Walters, Aural Teacher and Choral Conductor, The Purcell School

Music Technology

Aidan Goetzee, Head of Music Technology, The Purcell School

Special Projects

Irina Walters, Aural Teacher and Choral Conductor, The Purcell School

Simon Allen, Head of Jazz, The Purcell School

Aidan Goetzee, Head of Music Technology, The Purcell School

Additional Elements

In addition to the main programme of activity, students of the Composition Academy will benefit from:

- Composition seminars – 'Zoominars' – with professional composers, musicians and creative thinkers from around the world. A full list of which will be published shortly
- Group tutorials which will provide the opportunity for small groups of students to meet and chat online with Alison Cox, Head of Composition at The Purcell School, about anything and everything relating to the Composition Academy and their progress as young composers
- Access to live streamed composition concerts
- An invitation to spend a day at The Purcell School, at an agreed time during the school year by prior arrangement
- Certification on completion of all programme modules
- References on request for further and higher education (pending programme completion)

Optional One-to-One Composition Tuition

In addition to the main programme, young composers may also receive 25 x 1 hours composition lessons on dates and times suitable for themselves and their tutors. This feature is an add-on to the main programme and the additional cost is detailed in the fee section below.

Course Fees

Main Programme Fee: £690.00 per term (£2,070 in total)

Main Programme Fee Inc. One-to-One Composition Tuition: £1,084.00 (£3,252 in total)

Deposit: £500 payable within 3 working days of accepting the place

Fees are payable online only, through The Purcell School website [here](#).

How to Apply

To apply, please visit The Purcell School's website [here](#) and complete the online application form.

Following receipt of the application, a member of Composition Academy staff will invite applicants to attend a short online audition.

Interviews will take place via Zoom on the following dates:

Monday 28th September 2020

Sunday 4th October 2020

Monday 5th October 2020

All interviews will be free of charge. Exact dates and timings will be arranged with individual applicants.

Parents are encouraged to join the end of the interview if they wish to ask any questions about the programme or of the Composition Academy team.

Further Information

If you require any additional information or have specific questions, please email Alison Cox on a.cox@purcell-school.org.

