

The Purcell School's International Online Composition Academy

Programme Information

The Online 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)

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 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 A chance for the group to meet with Alison Cox and plan for the next day. Also to feed back	Composition Seminar This will be a lively lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting composer.	Composition Seminar This will be a lively lecture/discussion led by a professional visiting composer.

	about the day's activities	With the Senior School composers	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.

Further Information

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

