

Cameron McArthur

2 Friarage Mount, Northallerton, DL6 1LW

Email: cameronmca@live.com | University Email: cpm517@york.ac.uk

I am a creative and motivated composer, musician, and educator, with a particular interest in interdisciplinary practice, perception, and implication in music. Composition plays a key role in my life, alongside my interests in music education and jazz performance.

Education and Qualifications

University of York 2015-

2020- *Composition (PhD)*

2018-19 Music (Composition Pathway) (MA) 1st Class with Distinction

Modules included: Developing Technique and Ideas (75%), Critical Reflection in Music Practice (75%), Expanding Technique and Ideas (78%). Advanced Project: a significant, extended project, equivalent in scale to over half of the entire course. My work centred around the creation of a piece for Orchestra, exploring processes of decay and transformation, and the manipulation of audiences through expectation. (87%).

2015-18 Music (BA) 1st Class with Distinction

Modules included: Jazz Diaspora (80%), Composition 1 (81%), The Piano Today (72%), Composition 2 (79%), After Sibelius (78%), Introduction to the Psychology of Music (70%), Conducting (72%), Debussy (77%).

Composition Portfolio: Collection of several pieces composed during my final year, all exploring relationships between words, meaning, and music. (Mark 78%).

Solo Project: 'Playing Together: Collaboration and Improvisation in John Taylor's *Ambleside*'. This involved detailed transcription of contrasting performances of *Ambleside*, a jazz piece composed by Taylor, and an accompanying dissertation including analysis and discussion of Taylor's playing in these different contexts. (Mark 79%).

Macmillan Academy 2008-2015

A levels: Music (A*), French (A), English Literature (A), Maths (A), Critical Thinking (B)

ABRSM: Piano Grade 8 (Distinction), Trumpet Grade 8 (Distinction), Theory Grade 5 (Distinction)

GCSEs: 7A*s, 2As

Work Experience

September 2015 – Present – Composer

My composition focuses upon perception, implication, and expectation in music, and often involves interdisciplinary practice. Recent works have explored the integration of ideas from diverse external idioms (such as contemporary jazz, poetry, and prose) into the contemporary classical process, and experimented with means of facilitating interaction between conventional notation and computer-coded music. Despite the relative complexity of their creation, the resulting works present original and engaging sonorities that provide equal interest for specialist listeners and laypeople.

A number of these recent works were devised for The Arc Project, a new music initiative that facilitates collaborative projects between composers and performers. Other recent collaborations include the University of York Piano Ensemble, the Chimera Ensemble, and VIDAVERO.

Work Experience continued

October 2016 – Present – Musician (Self-employed)

I am a flexible and adaptive performer, equally comfortable in contemporary concerts, jazz clubs, and theatre orchestras. I mainly focus my energy on co-leading a professional 11-piece Jazz/Soul/Groove Project, *Paul McArthur's Kings of Cool*, playing public gigs and private functions nationwide. I am the lead arranger for this project, transcribing and engraving complex charts to tight deadlines; I also fill the roles of web designer, graphic designer, and social media manager for this group. This is a complex, time-sensitive set of responsibilities, sometimes requiring intense concentration, and efficiency; this project continually provides me with invaluable experience that informs my other commitments.

I also regularly perform as part of the orchestra for theatre productions around York. For these types of performances, a high level of musicianship and technical ability is required, but punctuality, consistency, and inter-personal skills are also essential. Both of these tasks, along with contemporary performance, require equally high levels of organisation, and musical ability, and place even greater focus on the need for good communication and personal understanding.

September 2015 – Present – Music Educator

For several years now, I have worked with a growing number of students, both in a private capacity, and as a peripatetic teacher, in schools in North Yorkshire and the North East. I primarily teach piano, as well as trumpet, guitar, and music theory, and do so in both individual and group scenarios. I very much enjoy engaging with students, watching their development, both in terms of ability, and confidence. Although there are challenges involved, music education is ultimately a highly rewarding profession.

September 2017 – June 2019 – Jazz Co-ordinator

Responsibilities included the organisation, rehearsal, performance, and general overseeing of the weekly jazz session that takes place in Vanbrugh College at the University of York. This role was particularly useful for improving my ability to communicate quickly and effectively with others, as well as my ability to lead an ensemble, and meet regular deadlines. During my time as co-ordinator, the jazz session became a more coherent and organised affair, with themed house sets and a dedicated Facebook page, listing all planned events, and allowing attendees to communicate with the organisers.

Achievements

Scholarships and Awards

My doctoral study at the University of York is supported by the Vinson Scholarship. In recognition of my undergraduate success, I was awarded two scholarships for postgraduate study: The Paynter Scholarship (£2000) and the Heslington Foundation Composition Scholarship (£3000). I am very proud and grateful to have received these scholarships; they really motivated me to make the most of my study.

As an undergraduate I also received several awards: the Wilfrid Mellers Prize, for the highest academic achievement of students in their first year, the Edd Burrell prize, for 2nd year students who show 'enthusiasm, promise and achievement,' and the John Paynter prize for 'the greatest general contribution to the community of the department.' As with the scholarships, I am very thankful to have my efforts recognised – it is very inspiring.

Additional Information/Interests

Fully DBS Checked.

Experienced and advanced user of *Sibelius* Music notation software.

Good level of written and spoken French - particular interest in current affairs and culture.