

d'Overbroeck's Partner School with OCMF

CHAMBER MUSIC COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2020

OXFORD CHAMBER
MUSIC FESTIVAL

d'Overbroeck's is delighted to be working as Partner School with the **Oxford Chamber Music Festival** again this year. Our commitment to making music as approachable and enjoyable as possible for all of our students is mirrored in the OCMF's educational vision: they too seek to introduce music in all of its glorious complexity and life-affirming richness to as wide an audience as possible. There is no sense of being patronising; programmes are not dumbed-down; but the **energy, enthusiasm** and desire to communicate that their wonderful musicians bring to each performance break down the barriers of exclusivity that deter so many from classical music.

THIS YEAR, TO HELP CELEBRATE OCMF'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE LAUNCHING AN INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

The theme of this year's festival is '**Transcendence: Beethoven & Pärt**'. It celebrates the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth and explores the thoughts and passions and the love of nature that drove him to express himself even as he became profoundly deaf. It also focuses on the music of **Arvo Pärt**, an Estonian composer who strives to depict spiritual insight and visionary revelations through the language of music. For more details about this year's festival visit <https://ocmf.net/>.

Learn more

Arvo Pärt talks about his music here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdNvEY-Ki4ag>

For an excellent introduction to Beethoven watch Charles Hazlewood's excellent documentary series 'The Genius of Beethoven':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YueD9vB51hk>

The competition

Students are invited to compose a **short piece for solo violin, or violin and piano**, in response to one (or more) of the themes that permeate the compositions of Beethoven and Pärt (see below).

Entries are **free** to make. The closing date is **5pm on 15 August 2020**. See 'rules and regulations' below for guidance on how to make your entry.

A shortlist will be made, and composers on the shortlist will be invited to work on their compositions with professional performers and a judge from our panel at a workshop in early September in order to finesse further their work. Final drafts will be due on **15 September**.

The winning composition will be performed by **Priya Mitchell (violin)**, the founder and Director of OCMF (with a professional pianist if required (TBC)) during the Festival. A recording of the piece will also be made, which will be launched on the d'Overbroeck's and OCMF websites.

BEETHOVEN

Beethoven, after initially despairing at his growing deafness, rose above his physical disabilities to write music that embraced and expressed his existential struggle and his humanity. Beethoven's work often therefore expresses the following themes: **Isolation, Freedom, Brotherhood, Nature**.

PÄRT

Pärt's music is **deeply spiritual**. He developed a technique called 'Tintinnabuli' meaning 'bells', where two voices work together, one outlining the tonic triad whilst the other moves diatonically in stepwise motion. His famous work *Spiegel In Spiegel* (1978) makes use of this minimalist-style technique:

"Tintinnabulation is an area I sometimes wander into when I am searching for answers – in my life, my music, my work. In my dark hours, I have the certain feeling that everything outside this one thing has no meaning. The complex and many-faceted only confuses me, and I must search for unity. What is it, this one thing, and how do I find my way to it? Traces of this perfect thing appear in many guises – and everything that is unimportant falls away. Tintinnabulation is like this. . . . The three notes of a triad are like bells. And that is why I call it tintinnabulation."

JONNY GREENWOOD

Jonny Greenwood is best known as the lead guitarist of the band Radiohead which he joined whilst still at school. He started to study psychology and music at Oxford Brookes University, but only finished his first term before leaving to sign a six-album deal with EMI and start his recording career with Radiohead. Radiohead have realised phenomenal success over the past decade, with multi-platinum album sales and an ever growing worldwide following.



Greenwood is no stranger to classical music though. His musical interests include Messiaen and Ligeti and he started out as a viola player. He plays several other instruments too, including piano, recorder and harmonica, and has a particular love for the ondes martenot. Last year he curated a concert at the Proms- a concert which included his own compositions as well as works by the Baroque composer Heinrich Biber and the minimalist composer Steve Reich.

JEREMY ARDEN

Jeremy Arden is a composer and teacher living in Oxford. His works include concert music, film music, chamber ensembles, ballets and opera, and have been performed at Queen Elizabeth Hall, the National Theatre, the Almeida Theatre, the Battersea Arts Centre and in many venues around the world.



Jeremy studied at the Guildhall School of Music and the City University. He has held posts as a composition teacher at various universities including Morley College, The Royal College of Music and the University of Hertfordshire. He is a world-leading authority on the work of Joseph Schillinger and the Schillinger System of Musical Composition. A complete list of Jeremy's work can be found at: <http://composers21.com/compdocs/ardenj.htm>.

PRIYA MITCHELL

Priya Mitchell is the founder and Artistic Director of the Oxford Chamber Music Festival. Her artistic directorship of this unusual and much acclaimed festival inspired The Daily Telegraph to call it 'a musical miracle.'



Priya grew up in Oxford and studied with David Takeno at the Yehudi Menuhin School and with Zachar Bron in Germany. She was then chosen as the British representative of the European Concert Halls Organisation 'Rising Stars' Series, this success led to highly acclaimed tours and performances with, amongst others, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Philharmonia.

She has worked with many eminent conductors including Sir Andrew Davis, Yuri Temirkanov, Richard Hickox, Emmanuel Krivine, Heinrich Schiff and Yan Pascal Tortelier. Abroad, Priya has worked with many orchestras including the Belgian Radio and Television Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, the Polish Chamber Orchestra, Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Deutsche Sinfonie-Orchester. As a recitalist and chamber musician she has performed extensively at international music festivals including Schleswig-Holstein, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, Kuhmo, Lockenhaus, Risør, Heimbach, Ravinia, Lugano, Cheltenham, Bath, Stavanger and Trondheim.

Rules and regulations

- Entrants must currently be **up to 18 years old**
- Pieces should be **between 5-8 minutes** long
- Pieces must be either for **solo violin** or for **violin and piano**
- Entries should be accompanied by a **short written or spoken (recorded) explanation** of the themes and aims of the composition
- Work should be entirely the work of the entrants themselves
- Deadline for submissions is **5pm, 15 August**
- Entries should be entered as **PDFs of scores, or photos of scores, with, if possible, a sound recording**. The recording may be taken from notation software

The shortlist will be announced on **1 September 2020**; all those who have entered will be contacted personally

The masterclass for shortlisted composers will be on **5 September, 10am-12pm**

The final drafts of shortlisted compositions are due by **5pm, 15 September**

We hope that anyone who makes the shortlist will be able to attend the masterclass, either at d'Overbroeck's Sixth Form or online, depending on government regulations.

Making an entry

There is **no charge** for entries

Email your score & recording to **Richard.poyser@doverbroecks.com** by **15 August 2020**

Please give details of: age; name of composer; school currently attending.

For more information on the competition, please visit <https://www.doverbroecks.com/home/chamber-music-competition-2020/>