

d'Overbroeck's Partner School with OCMF

CHAMBER MUSIC COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2021

OXFORD CHAMBER
MUSIC FESTIVAL

d'Overbroeck's is delighted to be working as a Partner School with the **Oxford Chamber Music Festival** again this year. Our commitment to making music as accessible 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.

THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S COMPOSITION COMPETITION IS TRANSCENDENCE

Following the successful launch of the d'Overbroeck's/OCMF Chamber Music Competition last year, we are delighted to be holding another competition for young composers this year. Those who are shortlisted will be invited to receive feedback and constructive advice from the judges in a masterclass (either online or, if possible, in person), and the winner will have their piece premiered at one of the festival concerts, designed for schools.

Last year's festival was, like so much else in 2020, cancelled. This year, audiences will have the chance to see the **'Transcendence: Beethoven & Pärt'** programme that was planned for last year's 250th celebration of Beethoven's birth. It 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/>.

The theme for this year's competition is **TRANSCENDENCE**, and we want you to compose a piece that reflects and illuminates this theme, and expresses what that word might mean to you. As with last year's competition the works of Beethoven and Pärt provide an excellent starting point for study, but composers may also draw on any styles that they find inspiring, be it folk, tango, minimalism, funk...(!)

Learn more

Arvo Pärt talks about his music here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdNvEYKi4ag>



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The competition

- Students are invited to compose a **piece for any combination of string quartet and piano** (i.e. cello and piano; 2 violins; viola and cello etc)
- Compositions must express Transcendence, in whatever way you see fit!
- Students must be in Year 13 or below in June 2021
- Entries are **free** to make. The closing date is **5pm on 14 August 2021**. See 'rules and regulations' below for guidance on how to make your entry
- A shortlist for each age group 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 OCMF musicians at the Festival's Schools' Concert. Tickets (free) will be offered to winners so that they can attend the Schools' Concert. They will also receive two complimentary tickets to another of the Festival concerts.

Judges

We are delighted to welcome back our expert panel of judges from last year:

- Jonny Greenwood
- Jeremy Arden
- Priya Mitchell

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. He is a successful film score composer and is a long-time collaborator with director Paul Thomas Anderson - his score for *There Will Be Blood* was nominated in 2014 for an Academy Award.



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 in **Years 7-13**
- Pieces should be **no longer than 5 minutes** long
- Compositions must be for **any combination of string quartet and piano** (i.e. cello and piano; 2 violins; viola and cello etc)
- Work should be entirely the work of the entrants themselves
- Deadline for submissions is **5pm, Saturday 14 August 2021**
- 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
- Entrants are also allowed to provide a **written rationale** to explain the compositional decisions they have made (**maximum 200 words**)

The shortlist will be announced on **1 September 2021**; all those who have entered will be contacted personally.

The masterclass for shortlisted composers will be on **4 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 and recording to richard.poyser@doverbroecks.com by **14 August 2021**.

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