

Jonathan Higgins

jonathan@jphiggins.co.uk – 07590 423716 - jphiggins.co.uk
15A Deptford High Street, London, SE8 4AD

Composer working extensively with electronics across a wide range of compositional media, including fixed media electroacoustic music, live electronics, and instrumental composition.

Education

- PhD Music Composition** – City, University of London Sep 2017 – Jan 2022
- **Passed with minor corrections** on 3rd December, currently completing corrections
 - Research title: Composing with Noise - utilising noise as a transformative and generative tool for creative sound practice
 - Supervised by Dr Tullis Rennie
 - Funded by the City, University of London Fee Waiver
- MA Sonic Arts** – The University of Sheffield Sep 2015 – Aug 2016
- Received **Distinction**
 - Funded by the Julian Payne Scholarship, Sheffield Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme and The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust
- BMus Music** – The University of Sheffield Sep 2012 – Jun 2015
- Received **Class One Honours**
 - Awarded Philip John Lord composition prize, Mrs Stewart Blake dissertation prize and Pro Vice Chancellors Commendation
- A Level** – The Sixth Form College Farnborough Sep 2010 – Jul 2012
- Music Technology (A), Performing Arts (A), Music (B) and Computing (B)
- GCSE** – St John the Baptist Secondary School, Woking Sep 2008 – Jul 2010
- Received 6 A*, 3 A and 1 B including A* grades in Maths, English and Science

Professional Affiliations

- Associate Fellow** – AdvancedHE (formally HEA) May 2020

Composition Experience

- Freelance Composer and Sound Artist** Dec 2014 – Ongoing
- Composing with a wide range of media including instrumental music, live electronics and fixed media composition
 - Music has been performed nationally and internationally. For a full list of performances see section: **Compositions & Performances** below.
 - Notable recent achievements include:
 - *Squeaky Gates* won Opera North's Minute Masterpieces competition and was premiered by the Orchestra of Opera North conducted by Howard Shelley.
 - *Man in Regent Street*, a composition for voice and electronics, was developed on a residency at Wild Plum Arts and funded by the PRS Foundation and the Marchus Trust. Received multiple performances throughout 2021 in the UK and Germany.
 - Commissioned by Sound and Music and the British Music Collection to compose *Wallpaper* which received airplay on BBC Radio 4.
 - Released an EP in December 2019 titled *Bootlegs* on experimental music label Fractal Meat Cuts which received national and international radio play.
 - For full details of performances, prizes and commissions see pages 3-6 or jphiggins.co.uk

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant – City, University of London

Sep 2018 – Ongoing

Teaching across both the BMus Music and BSc Music, Sound and Technology courses

Module Leader: *Composition: Studio* (Years 2 and 3, BMus and BSc)

Sep 2021 – Nov 2021

& Jan 2020 – May 2020

- Teaching practical and theoretical approaches to studio composition
- Planned lectures based on a list of pre-set lecture themes
- Provided one-to-one tutorials offering feedback on work in progress compositions
- Delivered practical workshops on creative recording practice using Logic Pro x
- Produced online lecture resources including video lectures and discussion forums during the move to online learning in 2020 due to Corona Virus lockdown
- Marked and moderated coursework submissions
- Planned new assessment for those unable to access studio equipment in lock-down

Module Leader: *Electronic Dance Music* (Years 2 and 3, BMus and BSc)

Sep 2021 – Nov 2021

- Teaching the development of electronic dance music through its geographic, political and socio-cultural contexts
- Utilised blended teaching combining in person lectures with online seminars
- Provided one-to-one tutorials with students during office hours, covering course content and student plans for coursework submissions
- Refined and expanded reading list from previous course content

Reading Group Leader: *Western Music in Context* (Year 1, BMus)

Sep 2020 – Ongoing

Reading Group Leader: *Music, Sound and Technology* (Year 1, BSc)

- Planning key discussion points for the reading groups
- Facilitating and encouraging critical conversation between students
- Provide support on course content in response to student feedback
- Working with module leader to develop and update set readings
- Running short workshops on referencing and research techniques

Co-Module Lead: *Critical Listening* (Year 1, BMus and BSc)

Sep 2018 – Dec 2018

& Dec 2021

- Introductory first-year undergraduate module teaching a broad range of analysis techniques, acoustics, psychoacoustics, and music theory
- Planned a new structure for module with co-module lead based on module specification and previous student feedback
- Co-wrote, marked, and moderated written exams based on module content
- Took over as a cover tutor due to illness in mid-December 2021

Teacher, A Level Music Technology – Guildford County School

Sep 2018 – Aug 2020

- Planned and delivered all teaching on the Music Technology A Level course
- The course covered a broad range of topics including recording, mixing, mastering, composition, digital signal processing in Logic Pro X as well as critical listening and music technology history
- Provided guidance, and support for students with coursework and applications to university and conservatoires

Graduate Teaching Assistant – The University of Sheffield

Sep 2015 – Feb 2016

Taught and assisted on the BMus music course

Workshop Leader: *Composition* (Year 1)

- Lead instrumental composition workshops with two first year undergraduate groups
- Workshops focused on students playing each other's compositions and providing group feedback
- Facilitated discussion and provided compositional support offering feedback and guidance on composition and notation

Teaching Assistant: *Sound Recording* (Years 2 and 3)

- Assisted with set up and recording of practical teaching sessions on the second year Sound Recording module

Additional Work Experience

Application Advisor – City University of London Sep 2020 – Jan 2021
& Jan 2022

- Provide one-to-one support to students on job applications, looking at CVs, cover letters and application forms
- Suggest places to research potential job routes and open applications
- Marked coursework essays for the undergraduate Careers and Employability module

Manchester Opera Project – Technical Director May 2014 & Apr 2017 – Aug 2017

- Liaised with composers, festival staff and local hire companies to arrange required audio-visual equipment
- Set up all sound and lighting equipment for each performance
- Operated live electronics for each opera

Intern – Steelworks Recording Studio Apr 2015 – Jan 2016

- Mixed and edited recordings using Logic Pro X, Pro Tools and Melodyne
- Set up microphones for a variety of different recording sessions
- Produced sampler instruments using Logic Pro X for use by studio producers
- Performed basic maintenance and troubleshooting on studio equipment ahead of recording sessions

Software & Technical Skills

Audio

Proficient:

- Reaper, Logic Pro X, Pure Data, Max Msp, Ableton Live, Max for Live, Composers Desktop Project, Izotope RX, MuseScore

Familiar:

- Pro Tools, Cubase, The Ambisonic Toolkit, Melodyne, Supercollider, Sonic Visualiser

Other

Proficient:

- Mac OSX, Windows, Ubuntu, Photoshop, Microsoft Office, Latex, DaVinci Resolve, Git

Familiar:

- Debian Linux, Final Cut Pro, KiCad, LTSpice, Arduino IDE, Python

Publications

Organised Sound	Paper titled 'More than an instrument: improvising with failing playback media'. Selected for publication, currently waiting for proofs.	Aug 2021
Fractal Meat Cuts	EP titled <i>Bootlegs</i> composed using modified CD players. Released as a limited-edition CD and digital download	Dec 2019
ICMA – Array Journal	Review of concerts at the <i>International Computer Music Conference</i> 2016	Fall 2017

Commissions & Funding

Marchus Trust	Awarded funding in order to record <i>Man in Regent Street</i> and to cover performers fees	May 2021
PRS Foundation	Awarded funding from 'The Open Fund' to compose <i>Man In Regent Street</i> , a new piece for voice, electronics and paper	Jan 2021
Sound and Music	Commissioned as part of 'Interpreting Isolation' Grants from the British Music Collection to compose <i>Wallpaper</i> , a fixed media piece exploring lock down for playback online and over phone hotline	Jul 2020
20 21 Concerts	Commissioned to compose a piece for three sopranos, piano and electronics using the text <i>Requiem</i> by Anna Akhmatova	Sep 2017

City, University of London	Awarded PhD Fee Waiver to complete research into methods for utilising noise in the compositional process	Sep 2017
ICMA	Received funding to attend and present a fixed media piece <i>Stratum</i> at the International Computer Music Conference 2016 in Utrecht	Sep 2016
The University of Sheffield	Awarded Julian Payne Scholarship partially funding tuition fees for MA in Sonic Art	Sep 2015
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust	Received support partially funding tuition fees for MA in Sonic Art	Sep 2015
The University of Sheffield	Awarded scholarship from the Sheffield Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme supporting living costs during MA in Sonic Art	Sep 2015

Public Broadcasts

Wallpaper (2020) fixed media composition

- BBC Radio 4 2nd Sep 2020
- BBC Radio 4 31st Aug 2020
- Foodhall Community Radio Sheffield, Online 9th Aug 2020

[stop] (2019) fixed media composition from *Bootlegs* EP

- Reasonance Extra DAB, UK 15th Nov 2021
- Radio Thamesmead RTM, London, Online 12th Apr 2020
- NTS Radio, Online 3rd Dec 2019
- Colaboradio, Berlin 88.4 FM and Potsdam 90.7 FM 20th Nov 2019
- Resonance 104.4 FM and DAB, London 19th Nov 2019
- CJMP 90.1 FM, Powell River, British Columbia 16th Nov 2019
- Resonance 104.4 FM and DAB and Resonance Extra DAB, UK 16th Nov 2019

>> (2019) fixed media composition from *Bootlegs* EP

- KEPW 97.3 FM Eugene, Oregon, USA 28th Dec 2019
- WTUL 91.5 FM New Orleans, USA 15th Nov 2019

Fractured (2016) fixed media composition

- Acoustic Frontiers, CKCU FM 93.1 Ontario, Canada 31st Jul 2017

Compositions & Performances

Squeaky Gates (2021) for orchestra

- Orchestra of Opera North, Huddersfield Town Hall, Huddersfield 27th Jan 2022

Man in Regent Street (2021) for soprano, live electronics, and paper

- City, University of London, London 15th Nov 2021
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham 21st Oct 2021
- LABYRINTH Triptych, Alte Muenze, Berlin 15th & 16th Oct 2021
- Final of 7th John Cage Interpretation Award, Halberstadt, Germany 19th Sep 2021
- City Summer Sounds, live stream 10th Jun 2021

Wallpaper (2020) fixed media composition for playback online and via phone hotline

- CMMAS El Festival Visiones Sonoras, Mexico, Livestream 23rd Sep 2021
- Beast Feast, live stream 22nd Apr 2021
- Phone hotline, 0330 818 0351 Jul 2020 - Ongoing

Glitch Turntablism (2018 – Ongoing) improvisation utilising modified CD players

- Sonorities, Belfast 9th Apr 2022
- Noise Quest, online live stream 29th Jul 2020

- Sounds Like THIS, Leeds	14 th Mar 2020
- Safehouse, The Verdict, Brighton	29 th Jan 2020
- Steep 16, The Intimate Space, London	28 th Sep 2019
- Constructions 2, TACO, London	24 th Aug 2019
- Sonic Electronics, The Others, London	7 th Aug 2019
- The Spirit of Gravity, The Rossi Bar, Brighton	1 st Aug 2019
- Hatch, Sheffield	20 th Jul 2019
- City Summer Sounds, London	20 th May 2019
- Liquid Sky, Berlin	11 th May 2019
- Splitting the Atom, Green Door Store, Brighton	10 th Feb 2019
- Photography Late, Jewish Museum, London	7 th Feb 2019
- Wild Within, Guest Projects Hackney, London	28 th Jul 2018
- CUEE, Iklectik, London	5 th Apr 2018
Vitiation (2019) for classical guitar and live electronics	
- Royal Academy of Music, London, performed with Alex Hart	14 th Jun 2019
Uncovered Creature (2018) remix of Lilja María Ásmundsdóttir's <i>Lurking Creature</i>	
- City Summer Sounds, London	7 th June 2018
Akai 4000D (2018) fixed media composition for diffusion	
- BFE/RMA Research Students Conference, Sheffield	12 th Jan 2019
- Sonic Exchange, University of Greenwich, London	2 nd Feb 2018
Requiem (2017) song cycle for three sopranos, piano and electronics	
- 20 21 Concerts, Pushkin House, London performed with Mimi Doulton, Sian Dicker, Patricia Auchterlonie and Krystal Tunnicliffe	9 th Oct 2017
Seethe (2017) fixed media composition for diffusion	
- Cities and Memory, Protest and Politics Sound Map, online	7 th Aug 2017
- Listening Room, Sonorities Festival, Belfast	17 th Apr 2017
Schutzwall (2017) chamber opera for two sopranos and live electronics	
- Tête à Tête Festival 2017, RADA Studio Theatre, London, performed with Mimi Doulton and Ella Taylor, set design by Lily German	12 th Aug 2017
- Manchester Opera Project, Engine House, Manchester, performed with Mimi Doulton and Ella Taylor, set design by Lily German	19 th Jul 2017
- Rough for Opera 15, Cockpit Theatre, London, performed with Mimi Doulton Ella Taylor and Alex Gowan-Webster	7 th Mar 2017
Fractured (2016) fixed media composition for diffusion	
- NoiseFloor, Staffordshire University	2 nd May 2017
City of Falling Angels (2016) fixed media remix for diffusion	
- Sounds Like THIS, Leeds	19 th Mar 2017
- Sound Junction, Sheffield	25 th Nov 2016
Torpor (2016) fixed media composition for diffusion	
- Sines and Squares Conference, Manchester	19 th Nov 2016
Stratum (2015) fixed media composition for diffusion	
- International Computer Music Conference, Utrecht	13 th Sep 2016
- Sound Junction, Sheffield	13 th May 2016
Matryoshka (2015) for piano and live electronics	
- Manchester Opera Project, Engine House, Manchester	29 th Jul 2017
- Netherhall House, London, performed by the Edison Ensemble	24 th Feb 2017
- Schott Recital Room, London, performed by the Edison Ensemble	20 th Feb 2016

- Present Tense, Upper Chapel Sheffield, performed by the Edison Ensemble 24th Oct 2015
- Firth Hall, Sheffield, performed with Jay Platt 21st May 2015

Inaudible Soundscapes (2015) fixed media composition for diffusion

- International Computer Music Conference, Texas 28th Sep 2015

Digital Spaces (2015) fixed media composition for diffusion

- iFIMPaC, Leeds 10th Mar 2016

Drum Solo (2014) 4.1 channel fixed media composition for diffusion

- NoiseFloor, Staffordshire University 30th Apr 2015
- Metanast, Nexus Art Café, Manchester 22nd Sep 2014
- International Computer Music Conference, Athens 18th Sep 2014
- Sound Junction, Sheffield 2nd Apr 2014

Installations

Dada, Gabsus (2018) binaural time-lapse recorded in the Kuna Yala region, Panama

- Wild Within, Guest Projects, London Jul 2018 – Aug 2018

7 miniatures in stereo (2018) fixed media pieces played over small distributed speakers

- 20 21 Perception, APT Deptford, London May 2018

Disinter (2016) fixed media composition

- Viseu Rural 2.0 Exhibition, Casa da Ribeira, Portugal Nov 2016 – Mar 2017

Untitled Suite (2015) modified self-playing piano and fixed media playback

- Hallam Tower, Sheffield Oct 2015

Digital Spaces (2016) fixed media composition

- The Art of Wandering, 25 Chapel Walk, Sheffield Jul 2015

Residencies & Affiliations

Wild Plum Arts Residency – The Red House, Aldeburgh

Aug 2020

Sound Hub Associate – London Symphony Orchestra

Oct 2017 – Oct 2019

La Wayaka Current Residency – Kuna Yala Region, Panama

Apr 2017 – May 2017

Composer in Residence – Furnace Park Project, Sheffield

Dec 2014 – Aug 2015

Prizes

Opera North, Minute Masterpieces – *Squeaky Gates* selected as a winner

Oct 2021

Jury Award – Binaural/Nodar Viseu Rural 2.0 Electroacoustic Music Competition for *Disinter*

Nov 2016

Philip John Lord Prize – The University of Sheffield for highest overall mark in composition

Jun 2015

Mrs Stewart Blake Prize – The University of Sheffield for highest overall mark in dissertation

Jun 2015

Runners Up Prize – USSS Electroacoustic Competition for *Fragments*

Nov 2014

Shortlisted – Nonclassical 10 Remix Contest for *Neiderau (Remix)*

Oct 2014