

CURRICULUM VITAE
DR. DAVID A. T. ÖNAÇ
PhD, MPHIL, MMUS, MA (CANTAB), LRSM

Summary

I am a professional composer of score-based concert music (winner: RPS Composition Prize 2012).
I am also an accomplished pianist and perform my own works as well as established repertoire.
I am a versatile musician, and write and perform nationally recognised music in the gospel and jazz idioms.

Personal Details

Date of Birth: 19 December 1984
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Academic Qualifications

2007-2013 PhD in Musical Composition
Completed at the University of Manchester, supervised by Prof. Camden Reeves,
external examiner: Robert Keeley.

2006-2007 MMus in Composition [distinction]
Completed at the Royal Northern College of Music, supervised by the Head of
Composition Prof. Adam Gorb

2005-2006 MPhil in Musical Composition
Completed at the University of Cambridge, supervised by Prof. Robin Holloway

2002-2005 MA (CANTAB) in Music
Undergraduate degree (2:1) completed at the University of Cambridge

Professional Qualifications

2007 DipABRSM in Piano Performance [distinction]
Tutor: Prof. Aaron Shorr, Head of Keyboard, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.
Haydn, Sonata in Eb Hob XVI:49; Brahms, Rhapsody in G minor Op.79 No.2;
Debussy *La Cathédrale engloutie*; Scriabin, Étude in C# minor Op.42 No.5

2009 LRSM in Piano Performance [distinction]
Tutor: Prof. Aaron Shorr, Head of Keyboard, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.
Beethoven, Op.2 No.3; Rachmaninov, Prelude in D Op.23 No.4; Scriabin, Sonata No.5

Current Academic Employment

2013- present *Since September 2013 I have been employed as a Teaching Fellow in Music at the University of Birmingham, where I have taught composition and related disciplines.*

Year 1 Tonal Harmony and Counterpoint (seminar tutor, examiner/marker)
This module requires students to write chorales in the style of J S Bach, realise figured bass, harmonise songs for voice and piano in the style of Schubert and quartets in the style of Haydn. I tutor students in small groups, mark weekly assignments, contribute to course content, and mark the final assignments.

- Year 1 History and Analysis (tutor, examiner/marker)
In the 1st semester I deliver back-up seminars to groups of c.15 students reinforcing lecture content delivered by other staff members in Popular Music and World Music. In the 2nd semester I take students through detailed analyses of set works in 19th C Music (Brahms, Violin Sonata in G, op.79) and 20th C Music (Stravinsky, Symphony in C).
- Year 2 Paper Composition (module lead, lecturer, tutor, examiner/marker)
Students complete four projects: 1.Ground, Ostinato and Isorhythm; 2.Serial Thinking; 3.Writing for Voice and Piano; 4.Writing for Medium-Large Ensemble. I deliver lectures and small-group/one-to-one tuition. As module lead, I plan content, set deadlines, assign tutors, act as first marker and conduct the annual module review.
- Year 2 Orchestration (module lead, lecturer, examiner/marker)
Module of my own design, including new assessment criteria. The course begins with a lecture dedicated to writing for each orchestral choir: strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion (techniques such as doubling and scoring chords are also introduced). Subsequent lectures gradually combine choirs culminating in a fourth and final project for a symphony orchestra of: 3fl, 3ob, 3cl, 3bsn, 4hn, 3tpt, 3tbn, tba, 2pc, 2hp, str.
- Year 2/3 Introduction to Jazz Styles: 1920-1980 (module lead, sole lecturer, examiner/marker)
I introduced this new module of my own design to the University of Birmingham in academic year 2014/15, at the specific request of the Head of Department to cater to sustained student interest. The module has successfully run for three years, and received excellent feedback. It covers Early Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Modal Jazz, Free Jazz and Fusion and also contains two optional strands: 1.Harmonic Analysis or Transcription; 2.Jazz Arrangement or Jazz Performance. I also designed new criteria for assessing jazz improvisation, which has been used by other staff members.
- Year 3 Final Year Composition: Special/Independent Study (tutor)
In academic year 2016/17, I have been supervising students one-to-one on a fortnightly basis as their composition projects progress. Thus far, pieces have been duo and trio assignments for woodwind and piano with an emphasis on contemporary techniques for the ensemble, to be workshopped by the Rees-Roche-Pestova trio.
- Year 3 Final Year Dissertations (supervisor)
In academic year 2016/17, I am the joint-supervisor for two final year dissertations. 1. Selected arrangement-compositions of jazz standards originally composed by Fats Waller in 'stride' Jazz piano style, translated into a Modal Jazz idiom (to be accompanied by prose commentary). 2. Arrangements of selected Jazz Fusion repertoire for an orchestral ensemble (to be accompanied by prose commentary).
- PG Composition (masters' supervisor)
In academic year 2014/15 I supervised a composition masters' student for the duration of the second semester whilst he completed his large ensemble project which was subsequently workshopped and performed by BCMG.
- PG Advanced Inst/Voc Composition (contributing lecturer)
In academic year 2016/17, I was asked to contribute to the Composition MA. My lecture in the Autumn Term, entitled 'Elements of Craft', began with parameters of sound (e.g. pitch, dynamics, register, density, duration, contour, articulation), and moved to constructing musical material and textures, considering how to balance unity and diversity, and to discussing temporal strategy (pacing, structure, proportion)

and character. We then considered compositional methodology, and I encouraged the new MA students to think critically about their own compositional process.

All Years Solo Performance (examiner)

As a member of the performance examining panel, I am often specialist consultant when keyboard candidates perform or when performances are in jazz style. Criteria I designed for assessing jazz performance and improvisation have proved useful here.

“David's patience and teaching approach is absolutely outstanding. He ensures that all students understand before moving on to the next topic even if this means repeating himself in several different ways. His knowledge and passion of the subject is clear to see and his enthusiasm is infectious. You never feel nervous asking a question in his seminar and know that you will be supported through any difficult topics that arise...” [Module Evaluation Questionnaire, Student Feedback, Tonal Harmony & Counterpoint]

Current Administrative Duties

- Pastoral Academic Tutees
 Since academic year 2014/15, I have been assigned c.15 students as academic tutees. My role as their academic welfare tutor involves meeting with them all one-to-one on at least a termly basis, to be the first point of call if an academic welfare issue arises and liaise with any other members of staff as necessary, and to advise on module choices, write references, discuss any issues that arise with lecture attendance etc.
- Admin Staff Student Liaison Officer
 I was asked by the Head of Department to act as Staff Student Liaison Officer commencing academic year 2015/16. At that time, I was convinced that the tone of the relationship between the staff and students in the Music Department could be significantly improved, and I took the following steps: communicating my deep respect for other staff members in the Department to the existing and incoming student representatives; encouraging both staff and students to see the process in a more constructive light; ensuring that student reps disseminated the outcomes of the staff-student process to the student body so that positive changes were seen to be done; overseeing the production of a document covering recurring questions asked by newly arriving student cohorts, so that these did not become (perceived) problems. These steps have proved very successful, with much more amiable discussions in Staff-Student meetings, and I am convinced it has partially contributed to the Music Department's improved scores in league tables such as the NSS.
- Outreach Open Days
 I have represented the University of Birmingham at Open Days, liaising with prospective students and their parents, answering questions about the course, musical life at university and potential careers in music. I have also given taster-sessions to prospective students drawn from my Jazz course, which have proved very popular.

Previous Academic Employment

- 2008 - 2013 *Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Manchester*
- Year 1 Aural Skills (tutor)
 Year 1 Sonic Invention (tutor)
 Year 1 Composition Laboratory (tutor)
 Year 1 Tonality (lecturer)
 Year 2 Composition (tutor, examiner)
 Year 2 Orchestration (tutor)
 Year 3 Composition Portfolio (tutor)

Format of Research Outputs, and Dissemination

My research is in the field of Musical Composition. Outputs take the form of scores and recordings disseminated through public performances, broadcasts and published scores. The tables overleaf show my most significant projects in this field. See www.composerdavidonac.com for selected recordings.

Significant Current Projects and Recently Completed Works

(* and **bold** type indicates online presence and/or potential for impact)

Title	Instrumentation	Commissioner// Premiere Details	Performance Personnel
<i>*The face of the deep...</i>	fl, cl, bsn, hn, tpt, tbn, 2perc, pno, hp, 2vn, vla, vc, db	University of Birmingham NME// 10 th and 25 th Feb 2017, Concert was live-streamed, see: https://youtu.be/jp-gUKM81MM	Daniele Rosina, cond.
<i>*Noel</i>	SATB, org <i>*Text: J R R Tolkien, with written permission from the Tolkien Estate</i>	Uni. of Birm., commission for Annual Carol Service// exp perf: Dec 2017, Forthcoming rec: Selwyn College Choir, Uni. of Cambridge	Simon Halsey, cond. TBC, org
<i>Lord bring love</i>	SSAA, pno	Private commission// exp perf: Autumn 2017	Ralph Earwicker, cond. Frank James, pno
<i>Responding to the Incarnation</i>	2fl, 2ob, 2cl, bsn, 3hn, 2tpt, 2tbn, 2tba, 2perc, str	Runner up: Stockport Youth Orchestra 60 th Anniversary Composition Competition// perf pending	Stockport Youth Orchestra
<i>Three Pieces</i>	solo piano	perf pending	TBC

Noteworthy Previous Compositions, Commissions and Performances (continued overleaf)

(**indicates publications/prizes, **bold** type indicates international performances)

<i>Toll</i>	solo pno	Dept of Music//Uni. of Birm., Feb 2015, 10 th and 25 th Feb 2017 https://youtu.be/jp-gUKM81MM	David Önaç, pno
**String Quartet No.6 (RPS Composition Prize: Winner, 2012)	string quartet	Royal Philharmonic Society// Cheltenham Music Festival July 2013	Carducci Quartet
**Expanses	alto sax, pno	Kyran Matthews// RNCM Gold Medal Festival, June 2013	Kyran Matthews, a.sax David Önaç, pno
<i>Newton's Cradle</i>	solo pno, ob, c.a., 2cl, bn, 2hns, 2tpt, 1perc, hp, 2vn, 1va, 1vc, 1db	Vaganza (Uni. of Manchester) //New Music Northwest Festival, RNCM, March 2012	David Önaç, pno Theo Vinden, cond.
<i>Ayla</i>	vln, pno	Marc Danel // Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, May 2011	Marc Danel, vln David Önaç, pno
<i>From Different Places</i>	lg sym orch: 3fl (picc), 3ob (c.a.), 3cl, 3bn (cont), 4hn, 3tpt, 2tbn, b.tbn, tba, 2perc, 2hp, str	Manchester University Music Society // Feb 2010	University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra Mark Heron, cond.
**...And the Red Sea... (pub: Cherry Classics)	b.tbn, pno	Jonathan Warburton // Eastern Trombone Workshop, Virginia, USA, March 2009	Jonathan Warburton, b.tbn Sophia Kim Cook, pno

<i>Beginnings</i>	fl, vla and hp	BBC Philharmonic // Chamber Concert Series, Nov 2008	BBC Phil. Principals: Victoria Daniel, Stephen Burnard, Clifford Lantaff
<i>In Memory of Timothy Sharpe</i>	string quartet	RNCM // memorial service, RNCM 2007	Mather Quartet
<i>Gesture</i>	2vn, va, vc, db, cl, bn, hn	RNCM Brett Dean Festival // 2007	Clark Rundell, cond.
<i>Sound</i>	brass band	RNCM Festival of Brass// 2007	RNCM Brass Collective
<i>Truly I say unto you</i>	SATB	2007	BBC Singers
<i>Four Études</i>	solo pno	Manchester International Festival // Brussels, April 2007	Peter Donohoe, pno
<i>Fantasia</i>	b.cl, pno, 1perc, vn, vc	Sweden, 2006	Curious Chamber Players
** <i>The Water Trio</i> (<i>Music for Youth Composition Prize</i>)	vln, tbn, pno	Music for Youth National Festival//Purcell Room, London 2005	Ellie Cornford, vln Richard Watkin, tbn David Önaç, pno
** <i>The Butterfly</i> (<i>BBC Young Composer of the Year: Runner Up</i>)	solo pno	2000, Numerous performances nationwide since premiere	David Önaç, pno

Other Employment, Composition and Performance Activities (continued overleaf)

Piano performance

Own works: I have performed as a virtuoso solo pianist in many of my original compositions which involve piano, often giving the premiere of the work in high profile concerts. Some significant highlights are:

- Toll (2015, 2017, c.6-minute solo piano piece)
- Newton's Cradle (2013, c.13-minute piano concerto)
- Ayla (2011, c.20-minute sonata for violin and piano)
- For other examples, please see the table above

Piano Concertos: I have performed, with full orchestra, as the solo pianist in the following works:

- Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*;
- Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor*;
- Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*;
- Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor*

Jazz Piano: My current activity is mainly focussed on a national tour accompanying award-winning vocalist Wayne Ellington in his c.90-minute tribute show to Nat King Cole. For this, I have devised original arrangements, produced all the sheet music, am the consultant for the sourcing of musicians, and lead the instrumental trio from the piano in live performance. This includes a substantial amount of solo piano improvisation.

Significant past projects include playing keyboards for the jazz fusion group "Endangered Species Band." Recordings are available on Soundcloud at https://soundcloud.com/patrick_friel_composer/sets/endangered-species-band

Past activities/festivals/groups/venues include playing at: festivals such as Manchester Jazz Festival and Southport International Jazz Festival; venues such as Jools Holland's *Jam House* in Edinburgh; featuring with groups such as the RNCM Jazz Collective; and running a standards quintet, *The Onac Collective*, for two years.

At the Keswick Unconventional Conference (Keswick, 2013) I gave a c.30-minute freely-improvised solo piano performance, spontaneously weaving together well-known traditional and contemporary Christian congregational repertoire to an audience of c.250. After the enthusiastic audience response, I was asked to return and give another performance the following evening, to equally enthusiastic acclaim.

Work with Gospel Choirs

In July 2016, I participated in the final televised round of BBC Gospel Choir of the Year as Musical Director for Manchester Harmony Gospel Choir. In 2015 I was MD and keyboardist for Voices Beyond's debut EP, available on iTunes. As MD of various choirs, I have worked with London Community Gospel Choir, the RNCM, Serious, Manchester Sing Out Choir, had original compositions/arrangements broadcast on BBC Radio 2 and Premier Christian Radio, sent choir members to accompany artists on X-Factor, won the national competition "UGCY" two years running and have been invited to Denmark to run workshops.

2015 - 2016	Musical Director: Manchester Harmony Gospel Choir (HGC); Voices Beyond
2013 - 2015	MD: Manchester HGC; RNCM Gospel Choir
2012 - 2013	MD: Manchester HGC; RNCM Gospel Choir; Assistant MD: Tehillah Gospel Choir
2011 - 2012	Musical Director: Manchester HGC
2009 - 2011	Accompanist: Manchester HGC

Original Compositions for Gospel Choir:

(*indicates broadcasts/prizes)

Work Title	Premieres/performances	Other Details
<i>You are all I need</i>	Harmony Gospel Choir, Manchester, May 2016	Available on: https://soundcloud.com/harmonygospelchoir/all-i-need-live
<i>Overflowing fountain of grace</i>	Harmony Gospel Choir, Manchester, numerous performances since premiere in May 2015	Available on: https://soundcloud.com/harmonygospelchoir/overflowing-fountain-live
<i>His love endures forever</i>	Harmony Gospel Choir, Manchester, Voices Beyond, numerous performances since premiere in May 2014	Available on iTunes, Youtube and Soundcloud: https://soundcloud.com/harmonygospelchoir/his-love-endures-forever-live Tosin Akindele - lyrics//David Önaç - music
<i>In this life*</i>	Harmony Gospel Choir, Manchester (May 2013), London (July 2013)	Winning Performance for University Gospel Choir of the Year 2013
<i>The heavens declare*</i>	Tehillah Gospel Choir, Harmony Gospel Choir, Manchester, 2012	Broadcast on BBC Radio 2

Other freelance work undertaken in Greater Manchester:

2016 - present	Highway Hope Charity: teaching piano to students from ethnic minority backgrounds.
2006 - present	A-level: individual tuition in composition (Sound Ideas project with David Horne) GCSE: classroom teaching in composition (Sound Ideas) Yrs7-9: composition workshops (University of Manchester's New Music Ensemble) Primary: interactive workshops to introduce young children to musical notation Private tutor: composition, harmony, orchestration, analysis, piano, jazz piano

Referees

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