

LIAM THOMAS DOUGHERTY

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Education

Royal College Music, London, United Kingdom

MMus (with distinction) in Composition, 2021 — present [July 2023 expected]

Johnson Scholar (2021-22), John Astor Fund Scholar (2022-23)

Principle teachers: Jonathan Cole, Catherine Kontz

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States

B.A. History of Art and Music, 2019

Henry Tappan Award for Academic Excellence

Principle teachers: Roshanne Etezady, Meilina Tsui, Paul Schoenfeld

Selected Awards, Residences, and Exhibitions

Elgar Memorial Prize in Composition, Royal College of Music

For achievements and performance throughout graduate studies at the Royal College of Music, July 2023.

Accelerate Award, Royal College of Music

Recipient of award and grant for selected graduating students to support the realization of a new, large-scale work, July 2023.

Luxembourg Composition Academy Fellowship

Selected to compose a new work for members of the United Instruments of Lucilin to be premiered at the 2023 Rainy Days Festival in November 2023.

London Symphony Orchestra - Soundhub

One of four emerging composers commissioned to create a new work for the annual showcase at LSO St. Lukes. World premier of *Hymn to God...In My Sickness* (performance and film screening), April 2023.

SOUND/IMAGE 2022

Month-long installation of *A renewed commitment to life and decay, always*, featured as part of the University of Greenwich's annual audiovisual conference and group exhibition.

Unit 44/Kirkos Ensemble

Solo evening-length performance/installation of *A renewed commitment to life and decay, always*, Dublin, October 2022.

Royal College of Art Graduate Showcase

audiovisual installation for piano, feedback, and transducers in collaboration with Shirley Renwick. Group exhibition, June 2022

Royal College of Music *Odysseys Opera Showcase*

Selected to compose a new short opera in collaboration with Tête-à-Tête opera company.

World premier of *Richard Gerstl*, short opera for chamber ensemble and fixed media, May 2022

West Cork Chamber Music Festival Young Composer's Competition: Winner of 2020 competition for

String quartet 1, June 2022 (world premier delayed)

Teaching Experience

Associate Lecture, University of Surrey (UK), Fall-Winter 2023

Course design and delivery of CMT2008: Music, Sound and Image for 2nd year undergraduates in the in the Creative Music Technology program. The course covers theoretical and practical topics in areas including sound design for film, film scoring, and experimental multimedia practices.

Selected Composition List

Helluva Way to Die for Explore Ensemble [amplified flute, clarinet, piano, violin, viola, cello] and short film. Premiered during the Royal College of Music's Composer's Studio series, May 2023.

Hymn to God...In My Sickness for three percussionists and short film. Premiered by members of the London Symphony Orchestra at LSO St. Lukes, London, April 2023.

Richard Gerstl short opera for chamber ensemble and tape. Performed at Britten Theater, London, May 2022

When your house is on fire, you don't read poetry, and you don't sing a folk song for feedback piano and shortwave radio collage. Premiered by Ilayda Oguz, Royal College of Music, London, May 2022.

A renewed commitment to life and decay, always audiovisual installation for deconstructed piano, feedback, and transducers, first installed at Royal College of Music Museum, London, March 2022.

A brightness that had depth, but no surface for four saxophones and tape, written for Geoffrey Deibel as part of 2021 Cortona Sessions for New Music, virtual premier, January 2022.

He didn't believe in God...but was in tears after hearing this for flute, electric guitar, violoncello, percussion, piano and electric keyboard, and tape. Written for Ictus Ensemble during the International Young Composers Academy, Ticino, July 2021.

Everything is holy for microtonal harp and sine tones. Written for Nuiko Wadden during the Walden Creative Musician's Retreat, Dublin, New Hampshire, July 2021.

It happened in your neighborhood for four Bb clarinets. Written for Gregory Oakes during the Cortona Sessions for New Music, 2020.

References

Dr. Jonathan Cole
Head of Composition, Royal College of Music
jonathan.cole@rcm.ac.uk

Dr. Catherine Kontz
Professor of Composition, Royal College of Music
catherine.kontz@rcm.ac.uk

Dr. Ed Bennett
Masters Composition Coordinator, Royal College of Music
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Dr. Robert Adlington
Head of Research and Professor of Musicology, Royal College of Music
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BIO

Liam Dougherty (b. 1996) is an American composer and media artist. His output includes electroacoustic concert music, multimedia installation, and experimental film. His music is concerned with elements such as drone, noise, and psychoacoustic phenomena, and often incorporates instrumental design and found-sounds/objects/footage into his composition practice. Recent projects include: a short chamber opera ensemble about the life of the painter Richard Gerstl and his relationship to the Schönberg family, a series of installations for a deconstructed upright piano and feedback, and a short film and live score utilizing archival footage of American nuclear weapons tests. Recent recognition includes the Elgar Memorial Prize in Composition following the completion of his Master's degree at the Royal College of Music, London where he studied with Jonathan Cole and Catherine Kontz, and the RCM's Accelerate Award which will support the development of a new large-scale performance and installation at the 2024 Rainy Days Festival in Luxembourg. He previously obtained a Bachelor's degree in Art History at the University of Michigan, and he was born and raised in Denver, Colorado.