

DR MATTHEW GEER

Composer · Researcher · Educator · Organist-Conductor
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ACADEMIC PROFILE

British composer-researcher, educator, organist-conductor, and arts professional working across concert music, choral and organ music, stage works, creative practice research, sacred music, and screen/documentary composition. Research interests include musical time, temporal consciousness, systems-based composition, repetition, permutation, experimental and minimalist music, sacred space, ritual, and creative practice as research.

Completed a PhD in Music Composition at Queen's University Belfast, with a doctoral portfolio and commentary exploring how compositional systems shape the listener's experience of time, attention, memory, and perception. Teaching experience includes undergraduate lecturing, marking, composition support, scoring and arranging, and private tuition in composition and electronically produced music.

EDUCATION

PhD Music Composition

Queen's University Belfast
2020–2024

Viva: 6 September 2024

Supervisors: Dr Simon Mawhinney and Professor Piers Hellawell

Research title: The Narrative of Awareness in the Listener's Fluctuating Experience: A Portfolio of Original Compositions

Research focus: systems-based composition, temporal consciousness, experimental music, minimalism, creative practice research, phenomenology, listener experience, and musical temporality.

BMus Music Composition

Guildhall School of Music and Drama
2015–2020

Principal composition study with Laurence Crane and Dr James Weeks

Relevant areas of study included composition, music theory, electronically produced music, jazz piano, choral and orchestral conducting, music business and administration, collaborative skills, and music analysis.

Organ Studies

Royal College of Organists / University of Sussex
Studied with James Lloyd Thomas

Additional Organ Study

St George's, Hanover Square
Studied with Simon Williams

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Composition and creative practice research
Systems-based composition
Musical time and temporal consciousness
Phenomenology of listening
Repetition, permutation, and combinatorial process
Experimental and minimalist music
Listener experience, attention, and perception
Music, ritual, and sacred space
Choral and organ composition
Contemporary sacred music
Music and consciousness

TEACHING INTERESTS

Composition
Composition portfolio development
Creative practice research
Analysis for composers
Music theory and harmony
Scoring and arranging
Orchestration and instrumentation
Notation and score preparation
Contemporary music
Experimental and minimalist music
Systems, process, and musical time

Documentary and screen composition
Practice-led research methods

Choral and sacred music composition
Organ composition
Electronic and studio-based composition
Music for screen and documentary scoring
Undergraduate creative practice supervision

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Lecturer, Music

Queen's University Belfast

October 2021 – July 2024

Delivered undergraduate-level teaching in music.

Lectured and supported undergraduate modules, including scoring and arranging.

Marked undergraduate work and contributed to assessment processes.

Supported students in developing compositional, analytical, and practical musical skills.

Gained experience in academic feedback, module support, student communication, and undergraduate music pedagogy.

Private Composition and Electronically Produced Music Tutor

Freelance

September 2021 – present

Runs a private teaching practice in composition and electronically produced music, based between London, Hastings, and Northern Ireland.

Supports students (school to doctoral level) in composition, music technology, portfolio preparation, notation, creative development, and academic progression.

Students have achieved successful undergraduate and A-Level outcomes, with some having work broadcast on national BBC and local radio.

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Guildhall School of Music and Drama

April 2023 – April 2024

Catalogued and analysed approximately 3,000 original seventeenth- and eighteenth-century manuscripts connected with Domenico Scarlatti.

Undertook detailed archival, analytical, and organisational work.

Developed experience in historical source material, manuscript cataloguing, research documentation, and analytical scholarship.

SELECTED RESEARCH-LED COMPOSITIONS

Ludions

Voice and piano, 2021, c. 15 minutes

A PhD portfolio work exploring short-scale temporal distortion, fluctuation of consciousness, text, memory, and the instability of perceived time.

Kalachakra

Pierrot ensemble, 2022, c. 5 minutes

First performed by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble at Queen's University Belfast, June 2022.

A research-led ensemble work exploring cyclic time, memory, anticipation, creation, destruction, and return.

The Forgettable Foreground

Pierrot ensemble, 2022, c. 5 minutes

Written for and workshopped by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble at Queen's University Belfast.

A work exploring attention, concentration, self-similar sound, static planes, and the instability of foreground and background.

Memento Mori

Solo trumpet, 2023, c. 12'30"

Written for Rebecca Toal.

A solo work exploring mortality, silence, finite duration, permutational arrays, ritualised time, and temporal consciousness.

SELECTED COMPOSITION AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

Concert, Choral, and Instrumental Music

Composer of concert works, choral music, organ music, chamber music, solo works, stage works, and practice-research compositions. His music has been performed, recorded, or workshopped by artists and ensembles including:

Selected ensembles and performers include:

BBC Singers
EXAUDI
Line Upon Line
Lakeside Brass
Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
Heather Roche, clarinet
Carson Cooman, organ
Satoko Inoue, piano
musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra
performers connected with Harvard University
City Chamber Choir

Selected venues and contexts include:

Barbican Centre
Museum of London
Grimeborn Opera Festival
Royal College of Music
Harvard University
St Paul's Cathedral
Southwark Cathedral
Belfast Cathedral
Brussels Cathedral
Rochester Cathedral

Stage and Dramatic Works

The Passion of Christ

For orchestra and chorus

2022-2024, East Sussex, England

Sane and Sound

Opera

2019, London, England

With Mixed Effects

Substantial monodrama

2019, London, England

Screen and Media Composition

Freelance Media Composer

October 2020 – present

Composer for film, documentary, media, and screen-related projects.

Recent and current work includes composition for feature film, documentary, nature documentary, and independent screen projects.

Experimental Pitesti

Feature film

Composer

2021-2025, dir. Victoria Baltag

Feature film starring Ion Caramitru, Romanian actor and former Minister of Culture.

Leaves of London

Independent documentary project

Composer

Original music for a documentary project exploring London's trees, wildlife, streets, squares, memory, and urban life.

London Canopy

Documentary-related cue

Piano and strings

Reflective cue developed from the sound world of Leaves of London.

The Girl Who Catches Wind

Title music / screen composition study

PUBLICATIONS, WRITING, AND RESEARCH OUTPUTS

PhD Thesis and Portfolio

The Narrative of Awareness in the Listener's Fluctuating Experience: A Portfolio of Original Compositions
Queen's University Belfast, 2024

Practice-led doctoral research portfolio and commentary exploring systems-based composition, temporal consciousness, listener experience, and the phenomenology of musical time.

Research Outputs in Preparation

Article based on doctoral research into systems-based composition and temporal consciousness.

Public essay series on composition, systems, listening, sacred space, and creative practice research.

Practice-research materials connected to PhD portfolio works including Ludions, Kalachakra, The Forgettable Foreground, and Memento Mori.

TALKS, BROADCAST, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TEDx Talk: Schizophrenia and Music

2021

Invited talk exploring music, schizophrenia, mental health, consciousness, and lived experience.

BBC Radio 3 Next Generation Voices

Broadcasting House, London

2018

Selected for BBC Radio 3's scheme for new presenters and speech contributors for broadcast.

St Bartholomew's Radio

London

2015-2020

Worked for several years in local radio, developing experience in presenting, communication, speech contribution, and public-facing musical discussion.

Kennington Park Recital Series

St Agnes Church, Kennington Park

2015–2021

Founded, managed, and hosted a recital series presenting thirteen concerts per year.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND SELECTIONS

5-year scholarship award, Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Selected participant, BBC Radio 3 Next Generation Voices, 2018.

Oundle for Organists Summer School recital awards, St Peter's Bournemouth and St Albans Methodist Church.

Fellow, Society of Crematorium Organists.

Composer-In-Association with the City Chamber Choir

Royal College of Music / BBC Proms Inspire scheme

2nd place in the Blackburn Cathedral Composition Competition

Most Promising Musician, Hastings Music Festival

ACADEMIC, ARTS, AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Mission Facilitator

The Salvation Army

January 2026 – present

Management and leadership role coordinating community engagement activity.
Leads community music and outreach activity.
Manages food bank provision and community-facing services.
Works with external partners, volunteers, and local stakeholders.
Develops interpersonal, organisational, community listening, and line management experience.

Development Officer, Freelance

English Music Festival

August 2025 – December 2025

Worked on a freelance consultancy basis to revitalise marketing, branding, and advertising materials across English Music Festival, EM Records, and Spirited.
Acted as developmental music coordinator for festival activity.
Supported income generation from trusts, foundations, corporate sponsorship, and patron relationships.
Contributed to fundraising strategy, relationship management, and institutional development.

Executive Producer

Southern Cathedrals Festival

April 2024 – December 2025

Developmental and fundraising lead for a major cathedral music festival spanning Winchester, Salisbury, and Chichester Cathedrals.
Led work across logistics, strategic budget management, operations, fundraising, sponsorship, marketing, governance, and volunteer supervision.
Supported festival planning, institutional coordination, stakeholder communication, and artistic delivery.

Fundraising Coordinator / Production Coordinator

Ulster Orchestra, Belfast

February 2022 – April 2024

Researched, sourced, drafted, and evaluated grant applications for capital costs and Learning and Community Engagement projects.
Worked with a registered charity with an annual turnover of approximately £4.5 million.
Supported development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of learning and community engagement activity.
Provided operational, logistical, librarian, and administrative support across orchestral activity.
Led or supported large-scale participatory projects including Come and Play, from conception to evaluation.

Director of Music

Old Town Parishes, Hastings, East Sussex

June 2024 – present

Directs RSCM Junior Choristers and an adult SATB liturgical choir.
Leads training through the RSCM Voice for Life scheme.
Oversees music administration and regular liturgical music.
Plays organ and piano for worship, recitals, and parish activity.
Works with the parish's three-manual Father Willis organ of 1877.

Director of Music

St Patrick's Church, Jordanstown, Northern Ireland

September 2021 – April 2024

Directed and accompanied the parish's four-part RSCM choir.
Developed a new junior choir.
Curated music lists and led choral provision for worship.

Organist and Director of Music

St Agnes Church, Kennington Park

September 2015 – September 2020

Played for Sunday and weekday Masses.
Trained cantors and supported liturgical music.
Directed the Kennington Park Recital Series.

Led parish music administration and choral activity.

Pianist / Ballet Accompanist

Emily Davies Dance Academy

2020–2021

Accompanied ballet workshops, rehearsals, and examinations.

CHORAL, ORGAN, AND CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Organ Performance and Conducting

Performed, accompanied, or conducted at major churches, cathedrals, abbeys, and chapels including:

Westminster Cathedral

Westminster Abbey

Southwark Cathedral

St Paul's Cathedral

Canterbury Cathedral

Peterborough Cathedral

Liverpool Cathedral

St Albans Cathedral

Rochester Cathedral

Guildford Cathedral

Winchester Cathedral

Salisbury Cathedral

Belfast Cathedral

Hereford Cathedral

Oxford and Cambridge college chapels

Venues in Paris and Belgium

Choral and Ensemble Direction

Conductor, London Conservatoire Singers

London

2015–2020

Directed a conservatoire-based ensemble drawing from London institutions including the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Trinity Laban.

Musical Director, Mossgrove Singers

Belfast

2021–2024

Directed an older adult outreach upper-voices community choir based outside Belfast, with repertoire including jazz, show tunes, and community music.

Conductor, Queen's Consort

Queen's University Belfast

2021–2024

Directed a student ensemble comprising musicians from Queen's University Belfast.

Director / Choral Leader Roles

Guildhall Schola Cantorum

London Conservatoire Singers

St Agnes Liturgical Choir

RSCM Junior Choristers, Old Town Parishes Hastings

Adult SATB Liturgical Choir, Old Town Parishes Hastings

COMMUNITY, SERVICE, AND VOLUNTEERING

Foundation Governor

All Saints Junior Academy, Hastings

2024 – present

Serves as a school governor, contributing to governance, oversight, community engagement, and educational development.

Hospital Volunteer / Patient Champion

St Bartholomew's Hospital, London

2016–2020

Supported patients and hospital users in a voluntary patient-facing role.

Volunteer Hotel Receptionist

Auberge Adveniat, Paris
2011–2017

Worked in reception, customer service, guest communication, and visitor support.
Provided tours and supported face-to-face engagement with international guests.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Fellow, Society of Crematorium Organists
Member, Royal College of Organists
Member, Royal School of Church Music
Member, Incorporated Society of Musicians
Member, Musicians' Union
Full Member, Chartered Institute of Fundraising

TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Composition and Music

Composition
Creative practice research
Orchestration and instrumentation
Choral writing
Organ composition
Notation and score preparation
Music theory and harmony
Scoring and arranging
Electronic and studio-based composition
Film and documentary scoring
Conducting
Organ performance
Choral direction
Accompaniment
Liturgical music planning
Rehearsal leadership

Teaching and Academic

Undergraduate teaching support
Lecturing
Marking and assessment
Academic feedback
Composition tuition
Portfolio support
Student mentoring
Workshop design
Practice-led research
Public speaking
Research writing

Arts Administration

Festival production
Fundraising
Grant writing
Sponsorship development
Trusts and foundations
Budget management
Governance support
Volunteer supervision
Artist liaison
Event planning
Learning and community engagement
Marketing and branding
Programme coordination

Software and Technical

Logic Pro
Keyscape
Spitfire BBC Symphony Orchestra
Sibelius / Dorico / MuseScore [delete any you do not use]
Microsoft Office
Google Workspace
Audio editing and mock-up production
Score preparation
Basic media collaboration workflows

LANGUAGES

English: native
French: B2 / lower intermediate

REFERENCES

References available on request.