

Patrick Ellis – Composer

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Profile

I am a composer, performer and curator based in Oxfordshire, UK.

My work often utilises limited musical materials which is explored through the use of subtle development, repetitive structures and juxtapositions. I write music primarily for chamber groups and ensembles, but also orchestras and soloists; sometimes my work employs fixed media electronics and/or visuals too.

In addition to composing I am also the co-artistic directors of PRXLUDES, an online magazine that interviews emerging and underrepresented composers; and Open Union, a modular synth and electric guitar duo that performs and collaborates with living music makers.

Education

- 2017-19: MMus in Composition, Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, NL
Taught by Martijn Padding and Guus Janssen
2013-17: BMus (Hons) in Composition, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK
Taught by Andrew Hamilton, Seán Clancy, Ed Bennett, Howard Skempton

Composition Courses, Programmes and Residencies

- 2024: Gaudeamus Academy, Utrecht, NL
2022: Artist Residency De Link and AMPA, Tilburg, NL
2019-20: Psappha Ensemble's Composing For... scheme, UK
2019: Sounding Now Festival, SG
2019: Orkest de Ereprijs International Young Composer's Meeting, NL
2012: Sound and Music Summer School, UK

Awards and Nominations

- 2024: Gaudeamus International Composers Award Nominee
2022: Young Artist in Residence for De Link and AMPA, Tilburg
2017: Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Composition Prize
2014: Philip Bates Audience Prize for Composers
2013-17: The Conservatoire Scholarship Award for Composition

Selected Ensembles and Soloists

Kirkos Ensemble (IE), Tantrum Saxophone Quartet (NL), Xtro Percussion (NL), Spaceship Ensemble (NL), Laura Sinnerton (UK), Benjamin Powell (UK), Fenella Humphreys (UK), Chris Cresswell (US), Kathryn Williams (UK), Kluster 5 (NL), Alfian Adytia (ID/NL), The New European Ensemble (NL), Orkest de Ereprijs (NL), Residentie Orkest (NL) and 315 Ensemble (US).

Notable Performances in Festivals and Concert Seasons

Gaudeamus (NL, 2024, 2022), November Music NL, 2022), Tracking Tilburg (NL, 2022), Union Musicale, (IT, 2022), De Link Tilburg (NL, 2022 and 2019), Mittelfest and Mittelyoung Festival (IT, 2021), Festival Dag in de Branding (NL, 2021, 2018), Kirkos Biosphere Festival (IE, 2020), Spring Festival The Hague (NL, 2020, 2019, 2018), Ideas of Noise Festival (UK, 2020) and Kammer Klang, (UK, 2018)

Masterclasses/Course Tutorials

Peter Graham/Jaroslav Št'astný-Pokorný (CZ, 2019), Ho Chee Kong (SG, 2019), Anna Korsun (UA, 2019), Silvia Borzelli (IT, 2019), Richard Ayres (UK/NL, 2019), Peter Adriaansz (NL, 2018), Michael Oesterle (CA, 2016), Michael Finnissy (UK, 2014)

Discography

- 2021: Combinations, Phrases for viola on Laura Sinnerton's Inner Voices (Birmingham Record Company)
2019: Breath, Patterns, Bends for flute on Kathryn Williams' Coming Up for Air (Huddersfield Contemporary Records)

Broadcasts

- 2022: Fractured Motion (2022) on Concertzender (NL)
2022: Unbranded Ensemble Piece (2017) on WCNY (US)
2021: Components (2018) on Stranded FM [for Gaudeamus Festival] (NL)
2019: Unfolding Chamber Piece (2018) on Concertzender (NL)
2018: Components (2018) on NPO Radio 4 (NL)

PRXLUDES

In February 2023, I joined the founder of PRXLUDES Zygmund de Somogyi to become the co-artistic director of the online Contemporary Music Magazine, PRXLUDES.

For the website, I have contributed many interviews, which includes composers Sylvia Lim, Lise Morrison, Christian Drew, Laurence Osborn, Celia Swart, Kirkos, Ailís Ní Ríain, the 2023-24 National Youth Choir Young Composers and Kory Reeder's US label, Sawyer Editions.

Open Union

Since 2021, I have been the co-artistic director of Open Union, an electric guitar and modular synth duo. We aim to build up strong collaborative relationships to create new verbal and text based works. Our current collaborators are Christine Cornwell, Wilson Leywantono, May Chi, and Paolo Griffin.

To date, we have performed at UK events Ealing Extranormal, AMOK, Don't Mind Control, Birmingham Modular Organisation and CODA Festival, and in 2023, undertook a mini-tour of The Netherlands, as part of the Sounding Here concert series at Splendor, Amsterdam and Batavierhuis, Rotterdam.