

5 October 2018

This is an open invitation to all interested colleagues to register for a one day symposium at the Royal Northern College of Music to discuss composition assessment practice. The event is in association with the RNCM's Experimental and Exploratory Music Research Centre and the National Association for Music in Higher Education (NAMHE).

This symposium will take place between 1000 and 1700 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2018. The event is free to attend and lunch will be provided. There will be some support available for travel where this is not available from home intuitions – please enquire about this when you email to register.

The purpose of the day is to build on, and contribute to, ongoing projects being undertaken by AdvanceHE which examine the calibration of degree standards (i.e. is a mark of 68% at one institution the same as 68% at any other?). The delegates who attended the Calibrating Academic Standards in Music Education run by the RNCM, CUK and AdvanceHE in February of this year, in relation to performance assessment, stated that they felt more prepared for marking musical performance, and more confident in their capacity to make judgements, following the event.

During the day we will discuss and compare practice in this notoriously complex area of higher education composition/creative practice assessment. Aside from the inherent complexities in this area the sector is also addressing radical changes in aesthetics, definitions of composition and music practice, and rapidly evolving technologies.

The day will be structured around talks highlighting best practice and exploring sector norms from different institutions and various case studies. The focus, however, will be on institutional sharing and open floor discussion to get a better sense of different institutions' practices. One agenda item will be to discuss the necessity and interest in this being a regular training event.

Please register your intention to attend by emailing:  
[eamrc@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:eamrc@rncm.ac.uk)

Registration will be on a first come first served basis and will close on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. I will be distributing more information on the programme for the day towards the end of October.

After the symposium (at 1930) there will be a short concert (as part of the RNCM's Decontamination series) exploring music that in some way problematizes assessment. Guest composer/performer Andy Ingamells will be joined by RNCM student performers and composers. If you would like to guarantee a ticket (this is a public concert) then please purchase through the box office here:  
<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/performance/decontamination-15/>

I'll look forward to welcoming you to the RNCM in December.

Very best wishes,

Dr Larry Goves  
Senior Lecturer in Composition

Dr Michelle Philips  
Assistant Head of Undergraduate Programmes