



# The Sir John Manduell Research Forum Series and The RNCM Postgraduate Research Student Conference

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April - May 2018

Open to all, free admission

RNCM  

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RESEARCH

**Wednesday 18 April 2018**  
**4.15pm Forman Lecture Theatre**

**Professor Andreas Lehmann**  
(Hochschule für Musik Würzburg)

**Only the tip of the iceberg: ad hoc arrangements in Bavarian folk music and parental involvement in young musicians' development**

Creative products and musical performances constitute the observable end-stage of longer preparatory phases which are hidden from the observer's eye. In my presentation I will report on two studies on which I have collaborated with students.

The first study asked how vernacular musicians in the alpine music tradition create ad hoc arrangements in collaborative sessions. For this we recorded two ensembles working on an unfamiliar piece for one hour and analysed the emerging ideas and their manifestations in the final version. We found strong parallels with results reported from jazz. In a second study we asked what influence environmental – especially social – agents have on young musicians' development.

Starting with interviews with families of high and average achieving children, we developed a questionnaire to assess the parental support, self-efficacy, music-related values, and practice durations of young musicians. The results suggest that the values that parents hold regarding music noticeably impact aspects such as the children's value of music, their self-efficacy, and even practice times. Shedding light on hidden facets of musical phenomena allows music educators to make evidenced-based decisions, for example when coaching groups in informal settings or when talking with parents.

**Wednesday 25 April 2018**  
**4.15pm Forman Lecture Theatre**

**Dr Nina Whiteman (RNCM)**

**Entering the maze**

Exploring ideas of entanglement and lostness, composer Nina Whiteman presents her ongoing series of maze pieces, including *House of Mazes*, *Thread* and *Chthonic Mazes*. The talk will feature discussion of the innovative labyrinthine notation, changing modes of performer interaction, and the roles of performers and audience.

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**Wednesday 2 May 2018**  
**4:15pm Forman Lecture Theatre**

**Dr Matthew Sergeant (Bath Spa University)**

**Made by Matter: Composing Nonhuman Affordances**

When we compose, we make. In my recent creative practice, I've become increasingly interested in the 'who' or 'what' is actually doing this making. Models of distributed creativities are, of course, widely available – Liza Lim's hylaemorphic model (Lim 2013) is a particular favourite of mine, as is anthropologist Tim Ingold's notion of 'intransitive making' (Ingold 2013), where final form unfolds in a state of dialogue with material substances. In this latter regard, much of my recent work has moved to foreground the role and function of non-human (even non-sentient) agential forces in my music. Drawing on additional theoretical frameworks from the so-called 'new materialisms' to contextualise such ideas, (e.g. by Karen Barad, Jane Bennett and Rosi Braidotti), this talk reflects on my recent compositional practice through the lens of non-human agency – exploring such a notion with regard to the making and realisation of a composition.

**Wednesday 9 and  
Thursday 10 May**  
**9.30am - 5.30pm** *Forman  
Lecture Theatre and Room 102*

**RNCM Postgraduate Research Student  
Conference**

Each year, the RNCM PhD and MPhil students are asked to deliver presentations on the progress of their studies, to an audience of their peers, academics and the public. For the first time we will be arranging these presentations as a dedicated conference with parallel sessions running across two days.

Further details of the conference will be made available at [www.rncm.ac.uk/research](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/research)

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**Wednesday 16 May 2018**  
**4.15pm** *Forman Lecture Theatre*

**Alex Dee (RNCM)**

**Developing a framework for the comparative  
analysis of song**

In this talk I will reflect on my current doctoral research, which is centred around a framework designed to extract data about the musical and lyrical content of songs. This methodology has been designed in such a way that the resultant data is directly comparable. Touching upon elements of Music Information Retrieval and Corpus Analysis, I will discuss the process of designing the framework and its subsequent potential uses for researchers and students.

**Wednesday 23 May 2018**  
**4.15pm** *Forman Lecture Theatre*

**Ros Hawley (LIME Music for Health)**

**Lime Music for Health Medical Notes**

Exploring ideas of entanglement and Music at the Heart of Life at The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital is a ground-breaking programme of specialised hospital music making. Over 100 students from The Royal Northern College of Music have participated in training with the organisation, learning techniques of person-centred music making, improvisation, musical interaction and ensemble skills relevant to hospital.

In outlining the work of the programme this seminar will examine how themes of resilience, transforming experience and reconnection, as identified in Salford University's recent evaluation of children's experience with the team, relate to wider student learning within the conservatoire setting.

[www.musicforhealth.wordpress.com](http://www.musicforhealth.wordpress.com)

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**Cover image:** Women Voices Choir performing at RNCM – an adult music education project run by PhD student Jo-Yee Cheung with refugees, asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence.

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## **FRENCH CONNECTIONS**

**SEPT 2017 – JULY 2018  
CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF  
FRANCE AND ITS IMPACT  
ACROSS THE WORLD**