

# Graduate Women NZ Mid-Year Report 2020

Kirsten Strom

GWNZ Fellow

Awarded 2019/2020

Greetings from London!

I hope you are doing well! Here is an update on my time in London so far - much music-making is afoot! Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

London is marvellous! Right from my first week I saw two BBC PROMS at the Royal Albert Hall, sang with a jazz band where I live (a secret dream!), and heard my album featured on RNZ Concert from across the ocean! What a welcome home! (So devastating about their news - such a precious national treasure. Let us all hope that our outpouring of support does not go unnoticed!!)

In my first week at Academy, I remember standing as a groundling with fellow Academy musicians, looking up at the Royal Albert Hall, and hearing the wonderful music pour over me (Shostakovich 8) and just thinking "Wow - I can't believe I'm here! I can't believe I'm here!" I had a similar feeling when Elton John waltzed into the room (greeted by the Royal Academy organ, would you believe) and sat down to give us insights into his life's work and his advice from one musician to another. How lucky are we!

2019 was a whirlwind term full of masterclasses, workshops, talks and classes, from Sir Elton John to Hans Abrahamsen! What I love about the Academy is there is such a warmth to the community, and it is a privilege to be among such fantastic musicians and friends. Chris Austin's wit sparks life into every orchestration class, and Phil Dawson's technology classes always stretch my current knowledge, enriching my creative palette. It has been a real privilege to join the conducting pathway with Dominic Grier, who is a wonderful conductor to learn from, especially with concerts such as tomorrow! I also had a fantastic collaboration with three singers and another composer, which I can't wait to show the world!

2020 began with a bang. After a busy Christmas and January, I now have two premieres and four concerts in the next week! Tomorrow I am conducting my piece "Wake-up Call" with the Goodensemble Orchestra where I live. This was commissioned back in 2018 by the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. The conductor who premiered it, Ray Chan, actually established this ensemble back in 2014! Then I have premieres on Tuesday and Thursday! It's all on! They are part of the Sound and Vision Festival with the Royal Academy, with two stunning ensembles - Echéa Quartet and CHROMA Ensemble. Echea are performing the work in two different concerts, and we are collaborating with the Royal College of Art. There may or may not be awesome lighting involved.... Also coming up in March is George Fu's piano etudes project for the Academy's bicentenary, as well as my own performance of a piece for voice and live electronics. It is a busy time indeed!

Last week I had my first workshop with primary school children and was excited to see them brim full with creativity! Much plotting for further performances is underway, with Environmental Week coming up at Goodenough College where I live, and an Afro-Caribbean Night where I have been asked to sing!

I also just found out today that my new string quartet has been selected by Ligeti Quartet for a workshop in the "Sounds Like THIS" Festival in Leeds. Exciting times! Thank you so much for the

opportunity to be here. It is wonderful!

Another update: THE ALBUM is out online now - I am super excited about this!

The title track was shortlisted for the ISCM World Music Days 2020, and the album has been featured on RNZ Concert. The cello piece 'Pour Espérance' was featured in a concert at Goodenough College soon after I arrived.

## **Wavering Lines**

*Haunting, atmospheric music by young New Zealand composer Kirsten Strom, featuring the Aroha String Quartet and exciting new artists.*

You can check it out on multiple platforms online including Apple Music, Spotify, Deezer, Amazon and Google Play Music.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaveringLines/>

iTunes: <https://music.apple.com/us/album/wavering-lines/1477018773>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/5Ys2V9J21SYpOtDTLyts9n?si=RofpRNIOSPuvyJvLbc-CsA>

I am proud of this bunch of performers and what we have created together!

Looking forward to much more music-making!

Thank you once again! Such a blessing to be in such an artistically rich environment.

Warm wishes

Kirsten

Picture's from London



Royal Academy of Music



Composer curry night!



Me with fantastic Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen with whom I had a private lesson!



An arts dinner at Goodenough College with fellow Academy student Conrad Asman, Head of Composition Prof Phil Cashian and Prof Helen Grime (a new MBE! wonderful composer and mentor)



BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall!



BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall!

**GOODENSEMBLE**  
LITERTURE

# Goodensemble Concert

Produced by Goodenough College

**PROGRAMME**

Struss - Wake Up Call  
Bartolucci - Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37  
Händel - "Tosca" a Vespertino (Act II), "Aria sospira" (Act II), & "Credite al mio dolore" (Act III), from *Alcina*  
Bizet - "Tabasco", from Act I of *Carmen*  
Mozart - "Madama", from Act I of *Don Giovanni*  
Händel - "Dopo tocca", from Act III of *Aradante*  
Boris - "Comme un dieu", from Act II of *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*  
Rossini - "Una voce poco fa", from Act I of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*  
Mozart - "Scène six et sept", from Act I of *Le Nozze di Figaro*

**SOLOISTS:** Zhu Sun (piano), Chao Lee-McGowan (soprano), Sophie Spence (soprano), Ella Rhee-Chambers (mezzo-soprano), Emma Nikolovska (mezzo-soprano), Alexander Fritze (bass)

**CONDUCTORS:** Owen Ho, Will Sharma, Kirsten Strom

**9 FEB 2020**  
**(Sun) 7:30pm**

Great Hall  
Goodenough College  
London WC1N 2AB

**TICKETS**  
£3 (Exclusive to Goodenough College Members - via the Square)  
£8 (Eventbrite / Pay at the door)

QR CODE - EVENT PAGE! #goodensemble

Concerts coming up!

**ECHÉA QUARTET**

# POP-UP MUSIC!

Sound and Vision Festival

**FREE ENTRY**  
**TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART BATTERSEA**  
11AM

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC STRINGS GALLERY**  
3PM

with music by  
**LOUISE DREWETT**  
**ELISABETH LUTYENS**

and  
**KIRSTEN STROM**  
(world premiere)

Concerts coming up!

# SOUND & VISION

A two-week exploration of the rich world where music and art collide and overlap, in collaboration with students from the Royal College of Art. Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, Bridget Riley, surrealism, British landscape, cave art and futurism are just some of the influences reflected in this series of concerts, site-specific installations around the Academy and experimental films. Over 30 brand-new student works will be premiered alongside art-inspired pieces by Michel van der Aa, Tansy Davies, Elisabeth Lutyens, Morton Feldman, Betsy Jolas, David Sawyer and John Cage.

**5 FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY 7pm**  
**Composers' Project: Pour Pablo Picasso**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Mark Shepton, Huw Watkins and Zoe Markey present a new work by Master's students, inspired by Stravinsky's miniature for solo chamber. The Pour Pablo Picasso, written in the context of a program.

**6 FEBRUARY THURSDAY 1.05pm**  
**Miniatures and Rag Music**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Schoenberg: New Yorker, Op. 24  
David Gorton: Piano (world premiere)  
Stravinsky: Piano (Rag) Music  
Debussy: Trois Nocturnes sur des poèmes de Paul Verlaine  
Takemitsu: Aki no Yūgata  
Stravinsky: Phantasies  
Helen Grime: Three Whistler Miniatures  
Artistic movements seen through music including Helen Grime's 2011 work, inspired by three miniatures by 19th-century artist James McNeill Whistler.

**6 FEBRUARY THURSDAY 9pm**  
**The King of Denmark**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Made in Ireland by award-winning composer Sean MacEachair and Willybur de Rosings, as well as Morton Feldman's "Contingental" (The King of Denmark) for string quartet. Intrusions and Disruptions are made in collaboration with MacEachair's student **Conrad Auman**.

**7 FEBRUARY FRIDAY 7pm**  
**Academy Manson Ensemble**  
Venue: Duke's Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Timothy Weiss conductor  
Michel van der Aa: Mix  
Morton Feldman: Three Clarinets, Cello and Piano  
David Sawyer: Trios  
Phi Bul Patira (world premiere)  
Tansy Davies: Flood  
Michel van der Aa's interest in film-editing techniques is applied to musical time in his piece for ensemble and playback. *Mix*, The original *Radio*, features high-energy music from Tansy Davies and David Sawyer, an exquisite quartet by Morton Feldman and a jaw-dropping new work and a duobass by PhD student Phi Bul.

**11 FEBRUARY TUESDAY**  
**Pop-Up Music**  
Venue: Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Art Kensington Campus  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Echéa Quartet performs an ensemble piece by Elisabeth Lutyens, Louise Drewett and Kirsten Strom, before and after the new work by world premiere by Michael Bird's *100 Ideas*, and a new work by Huw Watkins.

**12 FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY 9pm**  
**Composers' Project: Fontana Mix**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
The hectic world of New York in the 1950s is the starting point for six works by Master's students who have composed for mixed ensemble. These pieces will be performed alongside **John Cage's** grandstanding work *Fontana Mix*, and the world premiere of **Stamatis Luke Bedford's** *Homage Solo*, one of the 200 Pieces in celebration of the Academy's bicentenary.

**13 FEBRUARY THURSDAY 7pm**  
**100 Ideas**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Award-winning composer **CHRISTOPHER YOUNG** returns to the Academy for a new solo concert *100 Ideas*, featuring minimalist, six Master's composers. The concert features new works inspired by **Michael Bird's** *100 Ideas*, and a new work by Huw Watkins.

**14 FEBRUARY FRIDAY 11.10am**  
**Seen and Heard: The Sound of Art**  
Venue: Angela Burgess Recital Hall  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Writer and art historian **Michael Bird** explores connections between visual art and music, his latest film *Seen and Heard* seeks to address particular feelings, musical analogies in abstract art, and the role of young modernist artists in the discovery of the Academy's recent Barbara Hepworth project, in which six composers created new works in response to Hepworth's sculpture and settings. The leads into an open discussion on the creative parallels and interactions between art and music.

**14 FEBRUARY FRIDAY 8pm**  
**Composers' Project: Surrealist Cabaret**  
Venue: Concert Room  
Tickets Free, no tickets required  
Writer and broadcaster **Paul Morley** hosts a late night cabaret featuring new works by students from the Academy and the Royal College of Art.

Concerts coming up!

