

RMA Annual Conference, Newcastle University, 14-16 September 2021

Call for proposals

Deadline: 17:00 (5.00pm GMT), Friday 27 November 2020

The 57th Annual Conference of the Royal Musical Association will be hosted by Newcastle University's International Centre for Music Studies, between Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 September 2021. The conference aims to promote musical research and practice across all repertoires, contexts, methodologies and approaches; we welcome proposals that reflect insights from disciplines beyond musicology or consider the place of music within societal well-being. Keynote lectures will be given by Prof. Eric Drott (University of Texas at Austin), winner of the 2020 Edward Dent Medal, and the Peter le Huray keynote speaker, Prof. Kofi Agawu (City University of New York).

Conference format: despite the unprecedented situation, we are expecting and planning for an in-person conference. However, should the need arise, alternative plans will be made to facilitate an alternatively formatted event, pending UK Government and institutional guidelines.

Presentations are invited in these formats:

- Individual papers (20 minutes);
- Themed sessions of 3-4 papers (90 minutes);
- Lecture-recitals (30 minutes);
- Practice-based research workshops (90 minutes);
- Compositions (up to 10 minutes);
- Poster presentations.

We welcome proposals from scholars and practitioners at all career stages. We aim to represent the entire scope of current musical scholarship.

Please submit proposals as follows via the [online submission portal](#) (please contact magnus.williamson@ncl.ac.uk if you cannot use the online portal):

- *Individual papers, lecture-recitals, etc*: an abstract of up to 250 words, including an indication of equipment required;
- *Themed sessions*: an abstract of up to 250 words for *each* of the contributions to the session. In addition, a rationale of up to 500 words that makes clear the purpose of the session, its theme and the ways in which the individual contributions relate, both thematically and in terms of organization and timing (for example, four 15-minute position papers followed by a half-hour discussion). Please include full contact details of the convenor and indicate whether an independent chair will be required and what equipment is needed;
- *Posters*: A statement indicating the title of the project and who will be representing it at the conference, together with a sentence or two about the project, collaborators, partners and backers, as appropriate.

Once we have received proposals, they will be **anonymised** prior to assessment.

Themed-session proposals will be selected on the basis of the quality of the proposal, with sessions especially welcome that:

- involve the participation of leading scholars, performers, and composers;
- are linked thematically to keynote speakers' areas of expertise and to public events associated with the conference;
- address issues of current strategic interest and societal concern;
- are promoted by RMA's study groups and sibling organisations concerned with research in music;
- present practice-led research.

Note: In order to secure a range of speakers with varying academic and professional experience, the programme committee may actively solicit some proposals for themed sessions, particularly from sibling learned societies, its own study groups, and in significant fields of study it considers under-represented at recent annual conferences.

Proposals for individual presentations will be selected on the basis of the quality of the proposal (clarity, sense of purpose, methodology, significance of research findings) and their capacity to fit with other selected individual proposals into a thematically coherent conference session.

If the number of proposals proves to be very high, priority may be given to speakers who did not present at the RMA's 2020 annual conference.

Proposals should be submitted through the [**online submission portal**](#) **no later than 17:00 (GMT) on Friday 27 November 2020**. The committee aims to notify proposal authors of its decision by 20 February 2021. Those selected will be asked to confirm their acceptance and may make revisions to their abstract and (where applicable) timings. The full programme will be announced and booking will open in April 2021. Abstracts will be published on the conference website in July.

Note: All participants (save Dent and Le Huray guests and designated conference organisers) will need to register and pay the applicable fee. Registration fees are expected to be no more than £75 for RMA members and £90 for non-RMA members, with concessions available at half-price and a discount offered for early-bird registration.

You do not have to be an RMA member to propose a session or a paper, or to participate. However, you will find it well worth joining at www.rma.ac.uk. It will entitle you to a discount on the conference registration fee, free hard-copy and online access to the *Journal of the Royal Musical Association* and the *RMA Research Chronicle*, exclusive discounts on a wide range of publishers' books, professional news and views through RMA bulletins, and much more besides.

Enquiries about exhibition space, leafleting, and advertising in the conference programme book are welcome at any time. Further details from RMA2021@ncl.ac.uk and at conferences.ncl.ac.uk/RMA2021.

Programme Committee: Lawrence Davies, Kirsten Gibson, Catriona Macdonald, Rob Mackay, Simon McKerrell and Magnus Williamson (Newcastle University); Ellen Falconer and Michelle Assay (RMA); Julian Horton (Durham University).