

# Jack Pepper: CV

b. 1999

## Past Projects

- Compositions**
- **Royal Opera House (ROH) Fanfare** winner: my original composition was recorded with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House under **Sir Antonio Pappano**. This was used to call audience members to their seats before the 2016-17 productions of *Norma* and *La Traviata*. I was interviewed by **BBC News** for this project.
  - **Classic FM 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Composer**: in a Classic FM / **Royal Philharmonic Society** co-commission, I composed a brass sextet that was premiered at the **Barbican** in July 2017.
  - **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO)**: following my Classic FM premiere, I was asked to orchestrate the work for the RLPO, which was conducted by **Vasily Petrenko** at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall in October 2017 and broadcast at a later date on Classic FM.
  - **London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) Soundworks Project**: in Spring 2018, I worked with musicians from the LPO, dancers from **Rambert** and artists from **Central Saint Martins**, working with other young musicians to create a collective composition that was performed at the Clore Ballroom in the **Royal Festival Hall**.
  - **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)**: I was commissioned to write a piece to open the BSO's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala Concert in May 2018. This was conducted by **Kirill Karabits** and recorded by Classic FM.
  - **SymphRONica**: this Canadian jazz group performed a piece of mine at the Canada 150 celebrations in **Trafalgar Square** in 2017, as well as at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** and in Toronto. They have since recorded it for their latest CD, which is out now.
  - In 2018, I composed a piece for **BBC Radio 4's Today Programme**.
  - In 2015, I composed a song for a 12-school concert, which was performed by 300 students at the **GLF Arts' Festival**.
  - **EPTA UK Composers' Competition 2012**: Highly Commended
  - **EPTA UK Composers' Competition 2014**: 2<sup>nd</sup> place

- Performances**
- **Holocaust Educational Trust**: having visited Auschwitz-Birkenau with the charity in November 2016, I composed a song for the charity that has since been used in their official events. I performed the song at their annual Appeal Dinner in Central London in 2017, performing before an esteemed audience that included

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the Home Secretary and the Chief Rabbi. The song was performed in a version for violin and piano for the 2019 HET Appeal Dinner.

- **DMRC Benevolent Fund:** performed original song 'A Special Place' at the inaugural Gala Dinner of the DMRC Benevolent Fund at London's Grosvenor House, playing alongside soprano Alicia Lowes and the Landmark Singers in front of HRH The Duke of Kent, senior military officers and other esteemed guests.
- **Surrey Schools Have Talent 2012:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- **Kingston Young Musician 2014:** awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level in a competition against adults and university student musicians.
- Piano scholarship offered by international concert pianist **Richard Meyrick**.
- **Songwriting:** attended a SongWriter Camp in LA in October 2018 with hit songwriters **Pam Sheyne** (who has over 50 million record sales, and was one of the writers behind Christina Aguilera's 'Genie in a Bottle') and **Richard Harris** (who has written for Elvis Blue and Greg Holden).
- Solo performances at venues including **Wembley Arena** (as part of Voice In A Million, 2012), **G Live, Dorking Halls, Fairfield Halls, Warwick University Arts Centre, Leatherhead Theatre, Epsom Downs Racecourse** and the **JFC Jazz Club** in St Petersburg. I have performed my songs alongside the Soundbytes Choir, Landmark Singers and Headley Court Choir.

### Writing

- Have had several articles published in prominent journals and websites, including **The Telegraph, The Daily Mirror, Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, the Royal Philharmonic Society Blog** and Jessica Duchén's **JDCMB**. Particular areas of focus are music education and engaging new audiences with live music.
- My music and broadcast work has been discussed in **The Times, The Observer** and **The i**.
- Won a 2016 *Lessons from Auschwitz* article competition.
- In the autumn of 2017, engaged for the first time as a reviewer for **Opera Magazine**, alongside regular writing for **Opera Today**.
- In April 2018, began as a columnist for the **Jewish News**, writing opinion pieces from my perspective as an Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust.
- Was a regular columnist for **The Musical Opinion**, writing with a particular focus on music education and young musicians.
- Currently a regular columnist for Rhinegold's **Classical Music Magazine**, the industry-standard publication.

### Broadcasting

- **BBC:** in April 2018, I recorded a pilot radio programme for **BBC Radio 3**. This was not for broadcast, but to develop ideas.
- **Resonance FM:** between January 2018 and January 2019, I presented a weekly one-hour show on Resonance FM. The 42-episode 'Musical Minds' is an

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anecdotal history of classical music, exploring tales of the weird and the wonderful in the world of classical music.

- **Surrey Hills Radio:** presented a regular one-hour show on Surrey Hills Radio, exploring news stories from the world of pop, classical music and jazz.
- **Scala Radio:** I am a presenter for Bauer Media's new national classical music station, Scala Radio, joining a line-up that includes Simon Mayo, Angellica Bell, Mark Kermode, Anthea Turner and Penny Smith. I have appeared on Simon Mayo's signature Confessions feature as part of the panel, and as part of International Piano Day I taught each of our daytime presenters a piece on the piano live on air. My regular show, Jack Pepper's Culture Bunker, is broadcast every Saturday 3-5pm and Thursday evening 7-9pm; it explores the stories of the people behind great music. I have also presented Scala Radio Spotlight, including a four-day special series exploring the London Symphony Orchestra. Scala is available nationally on DAB digital radio, online, on the app, on Sky Channel 0216 and on smart speaker.
- I have been interviewed on BBC News, BBC Surrey, Radio Jackie, Forces TV and Classic FM.

### Work experience

- I joined **BBC Surrey** for a week of work experience in November 2017, where I contributed voxes to some of the lead news stories and participated in a live Children in Need broadcast.
- I joined **BBC Music Magazine** for a fortnight of work experience in November and December 2017, where I created the Magazine's annual online advent calendar, and contributed news stories, features and obituaries to both the website and the print magazine.
- I joined the **BBC Proms Music TV** team for a week of work experience in July 2018, working as a runner at White City and the Royal Albert Hall.
- I joined **BFBS / Forces TV** for a day of work experience at their Headquarters in August 2018.
- I have shadowed programmes going out on air at **BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4** and **LBC**.

### Other

- In 2008, I launched an annual charity recital for elderly Epsom residents.
- In 2014, I launched a staff choir at Glyn School, rehearsing and conducting them in performance.

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- **Head Boy at Glyn School, 2016-17:** in my role as Head Boy - leading assemblies in front of 1,800 people and co-ordinating 90 prefects - I organised a 90th anniversary event for the school, which was attended by over 500 guests. I was interviewed live on BBC Surrey for this work.
- I teach the piano, composition and music theory to a range of private pupils, and have given a composition workshop in De Stafford Secondary School, Caterham.
- **Edinburgh Festival Fringe:** in August 2018, I was the MC for a series of concerts by SymphRONica for the Festival Fringe.
- I was invited by the Press Department at **Glyndebourne** to review their production of Handel's *Saul* in August 2018 as part of an initiative to engage young writers.
- In January 2019, I was a guest speaker at the **European Radio Show Conference** in Paris, leading a masterclass for industry professionals and experts on 'Engaging New Audiences with Classical Music'.

## Current Projects

- **Bauer Media's Scala Radio:** in 2019, it was announced that I will be a regular presenter for Britain's new entertainment-led classical music radio station, Scala Radio, joining a presenter line-up that includes Simon Mayo, Mark Kermode and Goldie. From March 2019, I have presented a weekly show, Jack Pepper's Culture Bunker, a treasure trove tour of the genre exploring the human stories behind the music; in the launch week, I also presented a four-part series exploring the London Symphony Orchestra, where I was granted access to the recorded archives and interviewed some of the LSO's key figures. I am also a regular guest on Simon Mayo's show, and on Anthea Turner and Chris Rogers's Sunday brunch programme. From January 2019, I have also been a Production Assistant for Scala Radio, helping with the day-to-day running of the station.
- **Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Headley Court/Stanford Hall:** in 2019, I am organising a series of events for the Military Rehabilitation Centre at Headley / Stanford Hall, working in conjunction with the senior military leadership of the unit. This work has already involved liaising with the Equerries, Private Secretaries and PPOs of members of the Royal Family, liaising with the offices of senior military officers and inviting corporate guests – including Aston Martin, PwC and Toyota – to our events. In April 2018, I was honoured to be made a **Trustee of the DMRC Benevolent Fund**.

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- **Music For Youth:** in October 2019, it was announced that I had become an Ambassador on the Board of the national music education charity Music For Youth.
- **Songwriting:** I am currently writing a song with American musician **Michael Garvin**, who has 22 #1 hits (he was one of the writers of George Benson's 'Never Give Up On A Good Thing', and Jennifer Lopez's 'Waiting for Tonight'). I am also co-writing songs with British Prog Rock singer **Hayley Griffiths**, who toured South America in autumn 2018, and is planning a new album for 2019.

## Future Projects

- **University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra:** I am writing a work for full orchestra, which will be performed by the University Orchestra.
- **Orlando Contemporary Chamber Orchestra (OCCO):** I have been commissioned to write for the newly-founded OCCO, and have been given the chance to collaborate with their local **Opera del Sol** Company in this project.
- **Broadcasting:** I continue to be in discussion with a range of independent production companies about possible programme ideas.
- **DMRC Headley Court / Stanford Hall:** I continue to be involved in planning major events for the military facility.
- **Music For Youth:** I continue to be involved in planning major events, promoting the charity's values and presenting their live events at venues including the Royal Albert Hall.
- I continue to write a regular column for **Classical Music Magazine**.
- **Mole Valley District Council:** I am in discussion with members of the Council and Arts Department about potential youth music events in the region.

## Summary

My wide-ranging musical experience, academic writing and collaboration with top professional ensembles, publications and broadcasters make me a well-rounded individual who is driven by academic curiosity and musical enthusiasm. As an articulate, independent and motivated individual I have always been willing to experiment with new musical styles and ideas, and enjoy taking on ambitious projects. I am passionate about sharing my love of music with as many people as possible, and will always be eager to embrace new challenges.