

COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE: RYAN LATIMER

ACADEMY MANSON ENSEMBLE

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026, 6.30PM
DUKE'S HALL



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Ryan Latimer (b 1990)

Mills Mess

Moby Dick

Luca Zucchi (b 2002)

Élek (world premiere)*

I. Micsoda Ősz

II. Die Ratten

III. Der Wald

IV. Der Gewitterabend

V. Sötétzöld Sávot

Isabella Hulbert soprano

Ryan Latimer

Speaking of Letters and Dancing

I. A Letter

II. Dancing

III. Summer Night

Gabrielle Guiho soprano

Conlon Nancarrow (1912-1997)

Piece No 2 for Small Orchestra

* This commission is supported by the Jane Manning & Anthony Payne Award.

ACADEMY MANSON ENSEMBLE

Conductor

Timothy Weiss

First Violin

Yinong Xiao

Second Violin

Luca Kaufman

Viola

Flora Cummings

Cello

Mayuchi Ono

Double Bass

Ahouo Werenskiold Mandan

Flute

Jess Foxwell

Joseph Geary

Alto Flute

Jess Foxwell

Piccolo

Joseph Geary

Oboe

Lolita Marchenko

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Serhii Udod

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Heidi Walliman

Horn

Asa Emmens-Green

Trumpet

Iris Rushbrooke

Trombone

Jack Kujawa

Percussion

Jordan Ashman

William Ewins

Harp

Natalie Lo

Piano

Sadra Mahshidfar

Lily Petrova

Saxophone

Oliver Martynsson-Parkes

Accordion

Alise Siliņa

Ryan Latimer – Composer in Residence

Ryan Latimer is a British composer whose music has been described as ‘anarchic and cartoonishly fun’ (BBC Radio 3), ‘deliciously playful’ (Classical Music Magazine) and ‘irresistible in its tongue-in-cheek irreverence’ (International Society for Contemporary Music). His work has been performed internationally by leading ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, China National Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic and London Sinfonietta.

In 2021, his debut album was released worldwide on NMC Recordings. ‘Allusive, sparkling and emphatically rhythmic’ (Guardian), it reached #2 in the UK Official Charts and received 5 stars from BBC Music Magazine. Other recent works, including *Bellwether*, *Mills Mess* and *Gorilla and Orange Sun*, have been released by NMC, Ablaze Records and Birmingham Record Company.

Ryan is a regular collaborator with the contemporary dance group the Cohan Collective, and has worked closely with choreographers Jacqueline Bulnes, Dane Hurst and Jade Brider. In 2014, he composed and co-directed his first chamber opera, *Three Tall Tales of Doctor Monsieur Façade*. This interdisciplinary work, composed for ensemble, singers, actors and mimes, was developed in collaboration with dramaturges and performers from Warszawskie Centrum Pantomimy in Poland.

Ryan is a Lecturer in Music at the University of Birmingham and an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Timothy Weiss – conductor

Timothy Weiss has earned acclaim for his performances and bold programming throughout the US and abroad. His repertoire in contemporary music is vast and fearless, including masterworks, very recent compositions, and an impressive number of recordings, premieres and commissions.

For three decades, Weiss has directed the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, bringing the group to a level of artistry and virtuosity in performance that rivals the finest new music groups. He earned the Adventurous Programming Award from the League of American Orchestras for his work with Oberlin ensembles. He also serves as a faculty member and is the director of the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble at the Aspen Music Festival and School. Additionally, he is a co-director and founder of the Zohn Collective, a flexible contemporary music collective which seeks to produce and perform artist-driven projects generated by its members. He remains active as a guest conductor in the US and abroad and continues to be a regular guest of the Arctic Philharmonic Sinfonietta in Norway, an ensemble for which he served as Artistic Director for six years.

Weiss holds degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Northwestern University and University of Michigan.

Luca Zucchi – student composer

Luca Zucchi is a London-based composer whose work has been performed by leading musicians including Ryan Wigglesworth, The Hermes Experiment, the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Riot Ensemble, Orpheus Sinfonia and CHROMA. Recent compositions include *Fairer Westminster* for brass quintet, commissioned by the Lord Mayor of Westminster on behalf of the council, and *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears*, recorded by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, to be released on their forthcoming album with Signum Records. Luca received a distinction (DipRAM) from the Royal Academy of Music for his MA in composition and was awarded the Composition Postgraduate Prize and The Jane Manning and Anthony Payne Award.

Luca is taught by Philip Cashian and Helen Grime; in recent years, he has received coaching from a number of other leading composers, including Hans Abrahamsen, Robin Holloway, Nico Muhly, Huw Watkins and Ryan Wigglesworth. He is currently studying for a PhD in composition supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and a scholarship from the Academy. Before studying at the Academy, he read music at Cambridge, graduating in 2024 with the Lester Brough Prize and Royalton Kisch Prize for the highest academic grade for music in his college. Whilst studying at Cambridge, Luca was taught by composer Christian Mason and won the Clare College Composition Competition two years in a row.

Luca is also a singer and conductor, regularly performing across the UK. Currently studying singing with tenor Adrian Thompson, he has a particularly strong interest in Lieder and is a 2026-27 Oxford International Song Festival Young Artist. As part of the festival, alongside pianist Lilly Vadaneaux, he will perform a programme of works by György Kurtág, Schubert and Schumann that explores the relationship between modernity and ancient Greco-Roman culture.

Luca is the co-founder of the Isokon Ensemble, a group committed to innovative programming and performances that bring theatre, art and music together. As part of this, he has conducted staged performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Britten's *Curlew River* and Michael Nyman's *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, and sung in a staged reimaging of Schubert's *Winterreise*, performed alongside Beckett's play *That Time*. The group has received a significant grant from the Marchus Trust to put on the first UK staging of Gerald Barry's one-woman opera *La Plus Forte*, which Luca will conduct alongside his own new orchestral work *Andate a Rotolare Tra i Porci: Hommage à Gerald Barry*.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Luca Zucchi

Élek

I. Micsoda Ősz (Miklós Radnóti)

Micsoda ősz lapul mögöttem újra,
és micsoda fájdalomtól tompa tél!
Vérzett az erdő és a forgó
időben vérzett minden óra.

II. Die Ratten (Georg Trakl)

Und huschen pfeifend hier und dort
Und ein gräulicher Dunsthauch wittert
Ihnen nach aus dem Abort,
Den geisterhaft der Mondschein durchzittert.

Und sie keifen vor Gier wie toll
Und erfüllen Haus und Scheunen,
Die von Korn und Früchten voll.
Eisige Winde im Dunkel greinen.

III. Der Wald (Georg Trakl, after Hölderlin)

Der Wald, der sich verstorben breitet
Und Schatten sind um ihn, wie Hecken.
Das Wild kommt zitternd aus Verstecken,
Indes ein Bach ganz leise gleitet.

IV. Der Gewitterabend (Georg Trakl)

Staub tanzt im Gestank der Gossen.
Klirrend stößt der Wind in Scheiben.
Einen Zug von wilden Rossen
Blitze grelle Wolken treiben.

Laut zerspringt der Weiherspiegel.
Möven schrein am Fensterrahmen.
Feuerreiter sprengt vom Hügel [...]

Kranke kreischen im Spitale.

V. Sötézőld Sávit (Miklós Radnóti)

A holdra tájték zúdúl, az égen
sötézőld sávit von a méreg.
Cigaretát sodrok magamnak,
lassan, gondosan. Élek.

I. What an Autumn

What an Autumn lurks behind me again,
And what a winter dulled by pain!
The forest bled, and in the turning
Tide of time every hour bled too.

II. The Rats

And scurry, whistling, here and there
And a greyish mist can be sensed
Following them from the toilet,
Through which the moonlight ghostly trembles.

And they screech madly with greed
And fill the house and barns,
Which are full of grain and fruit.
Icy winds wail in the darkness.

III. The Forest

The forest, which spreads out lifeless
And shadows all around it, like hedges.
The deer come trembling out of hiding places;
Meanwhile a stream glides quietly on.

IV. The Thunderstorm Evening

Dust dances in the stench of the gutters.
The wind rattles and shatters the windowpanes.
A train of wild horses
Lightning-bright clouds drive by.

The surface of the pond loudly shatters.
Seagulls scream at the window frame.
The fire rider charges down from the hill [...]

The sick scream in the hospital.

V. A Dark Green Streak

Foam surges against the moon, across the sky
Poison draws a dark green streak.
I roll myself a cigarette,
Slowly, carefully. I am living.

Translations by Luca Zucchi