

Contemporary Music for All (CoMA) Festival 2018

This UK-wide biennial festival offers musicians of all ages and abilities a gateway into the exciting, imaginative and essential world of contemporary music, a vibrant celebration in which professional, leisure-time and young musicians can come together to celebrate works by many of the leading composers of today.

It's very much growing festival and the venues, programmes and organisations set out below represent those involved so far.

North East: Sage Gateshead

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

Sage Gateshead is using the Festival to make a major statement about new music, and its importance. In a region where audience engagement with new music is historically always low, we believe the CoMA format provides a unique opportunity for a different kind of engagement. At the heart of the weekend will be a performance by Royal Northern Sinfonia, conducted by Hugh Brunt, of MacMillan's *St Luke Passion*. Forming an integral part of the Bach strand next season this major work will feature the Chorus of Royal Northern Sinfonia and Quay Voices in addition to the orchestra, providing a key opportunity for amateur singers to engage with the music of our time. Around this centrepiece we are devising a series of workshop, concert performances and come-and-play sessions, in four strands: instrumental, vocal, composition, and electronic, working with CoMA material and using established new music leaders, such as James Weeks and Hugh Brunt. These are aimed at amateur and young musicians from across the region whom we will actively engage through existing amateur and youth groups and ensembles. There will also be a newly commissioned fanfare from James Weeks, joining amateur and professional performers.

Take part! all comers and via Quay Voices

North West: RNCM Manchester

Sunday 4th March

Three post graduate composition students at the RNCM, tutored by Adam Gorb will have their pieces workshopped and premiered by a pro-am ensemble as part of a mixed day of contemporary music making at the Royal Northern College of Music on Sunday 4th March. Bolton Youth Orchestra will use the event for final rehearsals of CoMA Open Score commissions. The Nigel Osborne commission for large forces will be the centrepiece of a final concert, a catalyst for creating as diverse an ensemble as possible

Take part! via named organisations

Yorkshire: Leeds College of Music

Saturday 3rd March

Workshops in the morning of pieces submitted by LCM student composers leading to concert performances by a students/alumni ensemble. The LCM will team up with CoMA Yorkshire, local young musicians from Leeds music hub, Artforms and East Riding Music Education Hub to play Stephen Montague's *Dark Sun*, in a concert that also features contemporary works rehearsed separately by the young musicians and local amateur ensembles.

Take part! all comers and via named organisations

West Midlands: Birmingham: CBSO Centre

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

The weekend programme will include a wide range of workshops and performances involving Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG), Music Maze (BCMG's young person's contemporary music project), Via Nova Choir and an allcomers ensemble and choir. Music will include CoMA's Open Score and part songs and Nigel Osborne's commission for the Festival.

Take part all comers and via named organisations

East Midlands: University of Leicester

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

The programme will build on CoMA East Midlands successful EMC2 experimental music event in March 2017. As well as music from the CoMA repertoire, the East Midland event will include new improvisational works, works by regional composers and two new pieces written for EMC2 but not yet performed. Local partners will also include SLIE (the South Leicestershire Improvisors' Ensemble) and/or CHA (Bruce Coates, Christopher Hobbs and Virginia Anderson). There will be rehearsals throughout the weekend for allcomers and a concert on the Sunday.

Take part! all comers

Norfolk

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

Building bridges to the modern world for local composers and choral singers, four local amateur composers, working with Michael Finnissy and using musical material sourced from Handel's Messiah and Stainer's Crucifixion, are creating works for performance by members of the IXION Ensemble with local community choir, Cantamus. Event will take place in four churches over the weekend, including Thorpe Market and West Runton building bridges to the modern world for local composers and choral singers.

Take part! via Cantamus

East Coast: Aldeburgh / Snape Maltings

To be confirmed, events led by Aldeburgh Festival / Snape Maltings

Take part! TBD

London: Shoreditch

Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

The weekend will begin with a composition curriculum day for A-level students at Brunel University and a concert at St Leonard's. Throughout the weekend there will be workshops for singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities and allcomers rehearsals. On Saturday night, there will be concerts by CoMA London, CoMA Singers and London Sinfonietta. There will be a string focus on the involvement of young people with Music Hubs, East London Community Band and a family event at Rich Mix on Sunday. The weekend will finish with the performance of Nigel Osborne's new composition in Shoreditch Town Hall by all participants.

Take part! all comers and via named organisations

South Coast: University of Chichester

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

CoMA Sussex and CoMA South Ensembles converge at the University of Chichester for a weekend of riotous music-making in the company of the Riot Ensemble. Alongside solo performances by percussionist Joby Burgess, as well as by the ensembles themselves, the participants will combine in the UK premiere of US composer Drew Baker's 'Nox'. There will be lectures and workshops, including a keynote from composer/conductor Aaron Holloway-Nahum alongside presentations from staff and students at the largest university music department in the UK. Organisations associated with West Sussex Music will ensure a distinctive educational slant to this festival of new music on the south coast.

Take part! all comers and via named organisations

West: Bristol University

Saturday 3rd March

Festival commissions will serve as the focus for bringing CoMA Bristol together with local singers and instrumentalists, including those attending University of Bristol Department of Music and St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School.

Take part! all comers and via named organisations

Devon: The Plough Theatre, Torrington

Wednesday 28th February to Friday 2nd March

Three days of workshops by an allcomers company of adults with disabilities and able-bodied musicians and helpers will culminate in a trailblazing Festival opener of original music theatre at the Plough Arts Centre in Torrington. Organised by Share Music South West and led by composer James Redwood, the resultant work will be interspersed and integrated with contemporary partsongs and works by Bristol based composer John Barber, performed by a specially convened ensemble of local singers.

Take part: via Share Music

Riviera Coast: Totnes, Torbay and Teignmouth

Saturday 3rd March and Saturday 10th March

Torbay Symphony Orchestra will be pushing the boundaries of what locally is understood by contemporary music by including, in its spring programme, Stephen Montague's 1995 CoMA commission *Dark Sun* a threnody to the victims of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, with performances in Torbay and as part of the Teignmouth Classical Music Festival. Young musicians attending SAMM, the Saturday morning music centre based in Totnes will have the opportunity to work on some of CoMA's simpler contemporary repertoire for performance at the centre's end of term concert

Take part: via Torbay Symphony Orchestra and SAMM

Cornwall: Truro

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

Led by the contemporary music group Kevos with support from Cornwall Music Education Hub and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Participate project, the weekend of new music activities will feature come & play and conducting workshops, concerts by Kevos and Truro Youth String Orchestra and a service at Truro Cathedral in which all organ and choral works will be contemporary.

Take part: all comers and via named organisations

South Wales: Cardiff University

Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd March

Friday will be a vocal day with open workshops/rehearsals including CoMA Part Songs led by Robert Fokkens, Director of Cardiff Contemporary Music Group, which will give an evening vocal concert.

Saturday will be an instrumental day with all-comers workshops/rehearsals on Open Score repertoire led by Robert Fokkens and members of the Fidelio Trio. There will be a composers' panel on "Writing for amateurs/writing open scores". In the evening, the Fidelio Trio will give a concert.

Take part: all comers

Scotland: Edinburgh

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March

The Hebrides Ensemble will build on its partnership with CoMA established in Edinburgh for the 2016 Festival, providing a wider range of activities and involving more amateur musicians. In 2018 there will also be a choral element based the Festival's works included in the Festival's 'Partsong' publication. The new work by Nigel Osborne will be premiered along with other contemporary composers and a broadcast opportunity is planned.

Take part: all comers

Orkney: Mainland

Saturday 3rd and/or Sunday 4th March (tbc)

An Allcomers rehearsal day organised by Orkney New Music Ensemble based on works selected from CoMA's Open Score collection, culminating in an evening concert featuring local composers and a performance of the Festival's Nigel Osborne commission.

Take part: all comers and Orkney New Music Ensemble

Northern Ireland: Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast**Saturday 3rd or Sunday 4th March (tbc)**

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble will build on the success of the 2016 event. Based in Belfast's Crescent Arts Centre it will see the complete core group of the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble (with conductor) taking a leading role in a workshop and concert with young, amateur and professional performers. The Ulster Youth Orchestra, students from Queen's University Belfast and a range of other amateur musicians will be invited to participate.

Take part: all comers and via named organisations

Belgium: Leuven, Matrix New Music Centre**Saturday 3rd March and/or Sunday 4th March (tbc)**

The Belgian part of the CoMA Festival is offering a programme of "all comers" music making activities plus a mini-conference providing a unique opportunity for in-depth discussions on the subject of new music for amateur musicians, with invited speakers offering their perspective based on their experiences and practice in the field.

Take part! all comers and via CoMA Maastricht

Germany: Berlin

KNM Campus ensemble together with the UK Embassy Choir will give the German premieres Festival commission by Nigel Osborne and Open Score works from composers chosen by Hannah Kendall. The final concert will also include works by German composers performed by KNM Campus. In addition to daytime rehearsals there will be creative music workshops aimed at young musicians

Take part: all comers and via named organisations