

Orchestration for One Instrument

Amy Jolly is a cellist and PhD candidate at the Royal Academy of Music, London. Having observed a frustration within professional music practice that the conceptions of instruments often proposed by composers can sometimes sit in conflict with professional-level musical training, her PhD project draws on the metaphor of the 'uncanny valley' to consider why such a frustration exists. It proposes a different conception of 'building an instrument' that is based on an accumulation of technical knowledge rather than its re-invention. Benjamin Britten's *Tema* is used as a model for the 'sphere of technical knowledge' of the cello, and thus becomes a starting point for a programme of collaboration with ten composers.

This presentation will focus on Amy's collaboration with the composer David Gorton, which has resulted in the piece *Saltarello* for solo cello. Drawing on qualitative research methodologies, video evidence, examples of notation, photos and live demonstrations, the presentation will explore technical choices negotiated in collaboration, and made in relation to chord shapes, and bowing and fingering in double stopped passages, showing how these choices make a difference to musical lines and technical practicalities. The presentation will open with a four-minute live (or video) performance of *Saltarello*.



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Amy graduated with distinction and DipRAM from the MA program at the Royal Academy of Music as a student of Josephine Knight. After completing the Hallé String Leadership Scheme she gained a diploma in the soloist class at the Institute of Music and Dance in Stavanger, Norway. She studied previously with Professor Valter Despalj in Zagreb and Jakob Kullberg in Copenhagen.

Amy has appeared as a principal player with BBC Philharmonic, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Opera North. Chamber ensemble work includes Psappha, UPROAR, Riot Ensemble and Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She has been supported by Help Musicians UK, Holst Foundation, Daiwa Foundation and the Britten-Pears Foundation. As a soloist she won the Royal Warrant Holders Aldeburgh Bursary and Charles Hallé Award. Amy received the 2017 and 2018 Dame Gillian Brown Scholarship in recognition of her work in Norway and won an award from the Richard Stapley Foundation towards her PhD studies.

Link to recording of *Saltarello*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOMhy1KdDrw>