

**Interconnections Between a Composer and the Community:
How can artistic agency be shared through the development of co-creative
compositional processes in diverse participatory settings?**

In my presentation at the EPARM 2024, centred around entanglements between humans and nature, I ended by speaking about the importance of social engagement to my compositional practice. I am working on compositional research into the societal entanglements that an eco-musicological perspective of interwoven ecologies encourages, stretching beyond the Scottish and Greek island communities of my heritage and into the urban spaces in which I often work on participatory compositional projects with diverse societal groups.

In this presentation I will focus on selected projects I have worked on recently, including my work with Streetwise Opera, composing a 'micro-opera' in a homeless shelter for women and children in East London, my work on the London Sinfonietta *Sound Out* project, creating a large instrumental work in schools in the London boroughs of Haringey and Enfield, and my work on a Live Music Now/London Sinfonietta/Theatre of Sound co-commission composing a chamber opera with families living with dementia, in collaboration with Rare Dementia Support UK. I will discuss my working methods in these different settings and how these methods adapted with ethical, creative and logistical concerns.

My presentation will address the following research questions:

- How can composers develop shared creative processes as a means of breaking down the barriers around classical music and enhancing the wellbeing of those involved?
- How can we create high quality new work which amplifies the voices of those we are working with, enabling marginalised and vulnerable groups to speak with their own creative voices?
- How can we share creative agency? How can a composer's musical language be shaped by a co-creative space?

These questions are particularly relevant to the focus of the 2025 EPARM on ethics and artistic agency. Delivering this presentation will allow me to further critique and develop my approaches to participatory work through articulating my findings and through discussion with other researchers. This circulation of ideas between practitioners and researchers working in co-creative spaces is an aspect that I believe is vital as we seek to open up the compositional process to more societal groups, enriching the field of contemporary music as a whole.

Parallel Session



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Electra Perivolaris (b.1996) is a composer and pianist from Scotland of mixed British and Greek heritage, described as 'A Classical Star of the Future' by BBC Introducing and 'One of a new generation of female trailblazers' by BBC Radio 3. Recent commissions have included works for the London Sinfonietta, BBC Singers, BBC Concert Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Composers' Hub. Electra is a Doctor of Philosophy candidate in Composition at the University of Oxford, after completing Undergraduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Masters studies at London's Royal Academy of Music, winning the DipRAM Award for an

Outstanding Final Composition Portfolio. Electra was a 2022-2023 Royal Philharmonic Society Composer and has been awarded the Young Classical Artists Trust 2024-2025 Composer Fellowship in its inaugural year, composing new Wigmore Hall commissions for YCAT performers. <https://www.electraperivolariscomposer.com/>