

CV

Richard Melkonian - Composer, Producer
Born 1990, British
Bedford House, Quaker Street,, E1 6JN, 07788711323
www.rvmelkonian.com
r.v.melkonian@gmail.com

Guildhall School of Music and Drama Classical Composition (second study Jazz Piano) BMus Graduated June 2017.

Composer for Theatre / Opera

February 2017 - Commissioned by Mahogany Opera group to write *The Finding* for Various Stages Festival (ICA, Charing Cross) for a chorus of women and babies, solo mezzo-soprano and amplified Cello written by Zoe Palmer, directed by Lucy Bradley.

June 2016 - Composed original score for world premiere of Arthur Miller's *No Villain* at Trafalgar Studios, directed by Sean Turner for Jazz Quartet.

September 2015 - Composed original music for *Twelfth Night* touring with Permanently Bard, directed by Sean Turner.

July 2015 - Composed original music for voices, percussion and Arabic Oud for Sevan Greene's *Nahda*, part of Shubbak Festival of Contemporary Arab Arts and Literature at The Bush Theatre.

February 2016 - Composed original music for voices percussion and guitar for Adam Brummit's *Suffering In Sirens* at Greenwich Theatre.

August 2013 - Composed original music for string ensemble for a site-specific adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*.

Composer for Film

April 2017 - Arranger, Composer and Music Editor for Soundtree music and assistant to Peter Raeburn.

April 2013 - Composed an original score for string quartet Filip Firlej's award winning feature film *If It Be Love*, premiered at Raindance film festival 2015.

January 2016 - Composer of original score for critically acclaimed documentary feature *Looking for Infinity El Camino* directed by Aaron C. Leaman (Umbrella Productions).

April 2015 - Commissioned by Brew Films to compose an original score for string quartet Emma Swinton's short film *Isabella*, premiered at BFI, tottenham court road.

Other Commissions and Awards

December 2014 - Finalist of the Sayat Nova International Composition Competition. *Andastan*. This was premiered in Symphony Space, New York May 12 2015.

December 2014 - Winner of the Mary Ryan Award. *Contradictions* for Harp, Flute, Viola and soprano was commissioned by Richmond Concert Society. Due to be premiered July 14th in Richmond, London.

January 2015 - Commissioned by Zeroklassical to compose a new Sitar Concerto for Sitarist Jasdeep Singh

Degun, premiered in November 2015.

Producer Arranger

January 2016 producer and Arranger for *Milk Spilt and Teething Powder* by Holiday Oscar (Sunday Best Records).

September 2016 - String Arranger for Cloak, debut album by Jordan Rakei (Ninja Tune Records).

January 2018 - Writer and Producer for Kwalia with Jordan Rakei (Pink Bird Recording Co.)

2017 - Producer and Arranger for *Jim Caesar* Debut album forthcoming

Performance Art

Jago - Arnold Circus 2017 Part of The Whitechapel Galleries *Art Night*, performed at Arnold Circus, for Hand chimes, percussion and public participation

Chalton Happening - Chalton Gallery 2016, part of the retrospective on *John Cage* featured on Resonance FM. For hanging home-made percussion and public participation

Duo - Chalton Gallery 2015, part of the retrospective *Duchamp is innocent*. For two performers and found objects.

Community Music Teacher

2016 September - Community music teacher at Penbury Youth club teaching youths to make film and music about their experiences.

2016 - February - August. Community music teacher at whipsnade hospital teaching elderly patients to sing in a choir.

2015 September - February. Jaganari Centre for Women. I was part of a series of workshops to help ex-offender women rehabilitate into society after long prison sentences.

2014 - 2017 - Community teacher at Prior Weston School, teaching children to make musical work in response to their curriculum



Full Bio

Richard Melkonian is an award-winning London based Armenian-British composer graduated from Guildhall School of Music & Drama 2017.

After attending one of the lowest performing schools in the UK, Richard taught himself how to read and write music to achieve his dream of becoming a composer. His music delves into his Armenian heritage, sounding ever ancient yet relevant. He was commissioned by Mahogany Group for the *Various Stages Festival*, and composed *The Finding*, a new operatic work by Zoe Palmer, directed by Lucy Bradley performed at the ICA 2017 for a chorus of mothers and their babies, mezzo-soprano and amplified solo Cello. In 2015, he won the Mary Ryan Award for composition and was commissioned *Contradictions*. Richard was also a finalist for the AGBU Composition Competition for his piece *Andastan* (Անտաստան) which was performed May 11th Symphony Space, New York. He has written several scores for films such as Filip Firlej's award-winning *If It Be Love*, premiered at the Raindance Film Festival, London 2015, Emma Swinton's *Isabella*, and Aaron Leaman's documentary *Looking for Infinity: El Camino*.

He also composes extensively in theatre scoring productions such as the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *No Villain* Trafalgar Studios, 2016, Directed by Sean Turner and Sevan K. Greene's *Nahda*, part of Shubbak festival for contemporary Arab arts and literature. Richard also makes musical performance art, making work at the Chalton Gallery and for

London's *Art Night* at Arnold Circus. Richard's studies at the Guildhall were made possible by the Guildhall School Trust. Alongside composition, Richard is also studied Jazz Piano with Barry Green. Richard also, produces, writes and arranges music for artists in the studio, such as Jordan Rakei, Qendresa, Kwalia, Jim Caesar, Desta French and Holiday Oscar.

Having also studied filmmaking for two years, Richard works in a wide field of media and practices. He recently completed his first film *November* as director-composer starring Andre Flynn nominated for best experimental short at Blow Up ArtHouse Festival, Chicago.