

Patrick Garrett Olsen

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Education

PhD (Education), University of Cambridge, UK, 2019

MA Music Performance, Irish World Academy, Ireland, 2005

BSc Psychology, The Open University, UK, 2012

BM Contemporary Writing and Production, Berklee College of Music, USA, 2000

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Music (Education), CIS

Academic Administrative Positions

Lead Faculty Fellow, Prinsep Street Residence

Other Positions Held

- Lecturer of Popular Music, LASALLE | University of the Arts Singapore (2020-2025).
- Tutor for BA Education and BA Music, University of Cambridge, UK (2017-2019).
- Programme Leader (International Education), Cambridge | China Centre, UK (2017–2019).
- Vice–Principal of Irish Harp Centre (music college), Ireland (2007–2014).
- International touring musician with Irish Harp Orchestra (2010–2014).
- Musical Performance – Irish Chamber Orchestra (2005–2007).

Awards and Honors

Qualified Lecturer Status from the Teaching Associates Programme, University of Cambridge (2019).

While completing his PhD at Cambridge:

- **The Barton Prize** at Cambridge for being ‘the graduate student who has made the most outstanding contribution to Homerton College life’ (2016).
- **Homerton Student Representation Award** for furthering the reputation of Homerton College (2016).
- **The Jean Rudduck Prize** from the Cambridge Faculty of Education for PhD upgrade excellence (2015).

Artist in Residence at The Hunt Museum composing and performing music with *CoMA Ensemble*. Limerick, Ireland (2011-2013).

Artist in Residence at The Belltable Theatre composing and performing music *CoMA Ensemble*, Limerick, Ireland (2009-2011).

Professional Memberships

Associate Fellow – Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)

Duke Ellington Society, UK. Senior Editor of Blue Light Quarterly Journal for three years (Volumes 26:1 – 28:3)

RESEARCH

Research Interests

- Music education
- Assessment of creative practices
- Learning cultures
- The marketisation of education
- Socio-cultural and discourse-framed research.

Publications

Journal Articles [Refereed]

Olsen, P. (2025- forthcoming) Improvising for the test: Influences of graded music examinations on the teaching and learning of improvisation within studio lessons. *International Journal of Music Education*. Sage

Olsen, P. (2024), Designing a New Aural Skills Curriculum for a Higher Education Popular Music Programme. *Journal of Popular Music Education*.

Book Chapters

Olsen, P (2025 – forthcoming) Unlocking Aural Skills Through Improvisation. *Improvisation Methods and Practices in Southeast Asia: Music, Dance and Theatre*. Routledge.

Conference Proceedings

Olsen, P. (2024). Challenges faced when designing curriculum and teaching Music to students whose access to musical education has not been equal. *In APDRex Conference 08/2024*. Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2024). Integrating More Awareness of Drum Kit Sounds and Grooves into Aural Skills / Ear Training Classes. *In Association of Popular Music Education (APME) Annual Conference 05/2024*. University of Southern California, USA. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2023). Building a New Aural Skills Curriculum: Relevancies and changes within an emerging music college. *In Association for Popular Music Education Conference, 06/2023*. New Orleans, USA. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2021). The Complicated Relationships Between Assessment and Improvisation. Lecture presented by invitation of the Music Education Faculty at the University of Illinois, 03/2021, Urbana-Champaign, USA.

Olsen, P. (2020) Relevance, Responsibilities and Potentials of a Jazz Music Society. *In Documenting Jazz Conference, 01/2020*, University of Birmingham, UK. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2020) Improvisation Cultures within Formal UK Music Lessons. In *Homerton College Research Series*, 02/2020, Cambridge, UK. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2018). Assessing Improvisation in the Curricula of Formal Graded Music Examinations. In *British Education Research Association (BERA) Annual Conference*, 09/2018, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2018). Recognising Specific Challenges in UK Pedagogical Culture for Performing Duke Ellington's Big Band Repertoire. In *25th Annual Duke Ellington Study Group Conference "In the Beginning, Duke"*, 05/2018, Birmingham Conservatoire, UK. Paper presentation.

Olsen, P. (2018). Assessing 'improvisation' inside and out of formal graded music examinations. In *British Forum for Ethnomusicology & Royal Music Association Conference "Music Inside and Out"*, 01/2018, University of Huddersfield, UK. Paper presentation & panel chair.

TEACHING

Teaching Areas

Education

Music

Arts Pedagogy

Courses Taught

Singapore Management University

Undergraduate Programmes :

Big Questions