

PRESS RELEASE
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Guildhall School appoints Cassandra Miller as Associate Head of Composition

Guildhall School is delighted to announce that **Cassandra Miller** has been appointed as **Associate Head of Composition** from September 2018.

Cassandra Miller is a Canadian composer of chamber and orchestral music. For the last few years, her compositions have explored the transcription of pre-existing music (often vocal) as a way to translate its musicality/vocality into another experience. Her present work also involves direct and personal collaboration with a wide international network of solo musicians, as well as ensembles and orchestras.

Miller has twice received the Jules-Léger Prize for New Chamber Music, Canada's highest honour for composition, for *Bel Canto* in 2011 and *About Bach* in 2016. Her concerto written for the cellist Charles Curtis with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra was hailed as an 'unexpected highlight of the festival.'

Her works are often written with specific performers in mind, involving their intimate participation in the creative process. Her closest collaborators in this fashion have included soprano Juliet Fraser, the Quatuor Bozzini, conductor Ilan Volkov, cellist Charles Curtis, pianist Philip Thomas, violinist Silvia Tarozzi and violinist Mira Benjamin. Pieces written expressly for them have been toured and performed across the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Norway, Uruguay, the United States and Canada. Over the last 15 years she received over 25 professional commissions from soloists, ensembles and orchestras both in Canada and across Europe. Notable performers include the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble, the London Sinfonietta, I Musici de Montréal, Ensemble Plus-Minus, the late great Ensemble Kore, Ensemble contemporain de Montréal, Continuum Contemporary Music, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Teaching forms an important part of her artistic life, having given university lectures, private tutorials, masterclasses, and workshop-style coaching. Her teaching philosophy prioritises inclusivity and diversity, and questions canonization.

Cassandra Miller commented, 'What impresses me about the composition faculty members at Guildhall is their attitude of bringing their whole selves into the classroom—growing in collaboration with students, engaging together with the challenges of artistic experience. The undergraduate course is expertly designed to balance the depth of knowledge that comes from canonical teachings with non-canonical musical inquiries. To this I bring my own questions about the role of the composer, and about the place of my own voice and body in the creative process.'

Julian Philips, Head of Composition at Guildhall commented, *'We are all absolutely delighted that composer Cassandra Miller is joining our composition department as Associate Head. She is a wonderfully distinctive and unique composer, and a warm and generous spirited artist. Her music reconciles a strongly human expressivity with her very particular interest in alternative kinds of transcribing and found sounds. Many of our student and staff composers are already fascinated with her music, and I feel sure she will bring new energies and expertise to Guildhall's lively composing community. We will also be working together closely to advance diversity and inclusiveness in composition at Guildhall School.'*

Guildhall School of Music & Drama is provided by the City of London Corporation.

For further press information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Tel: 020 7247 1894

Email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk | joanna@rdmr.co.uk

Web: www.rdmr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. The School is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians.

Guildhall School is one of the world's leading conservatoires, highly regarded in the profession for intensive, dedicated training taught by renowned international teaching staff and through partnerships with the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Opera House and the Academy of Ancient Music. The Guildhall School offers state-of-the-art facilities to match the talent within its walls, including a world-class concert hall and three theatres at Milton Court, and has a distinguished list of music graduates, including Thomas Adès, Alison Balsom, Sa Chen, Sir James Galway, Tasmin Little, Zara McFarlane, Anne Sophie von Otter, Sir Bryn Terfel, Roderick Williams and Debbie Wiseman. www.gsmd.ac.uk/music