

# Project Proposal

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# ECO MELODIES

**'MUSIC FOR THE FRONTLINE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION'**

# About me...

- **Composer and Conductor**

- Hockley, Essex
- Short films, advertisements, commissions and concerts

- **Postgraduate: Royal Holloway, University of London**

- MMus Master of Music (with distinction) supported by Headley Trust Scholarship
- Received 'MMus Prize for Outstanding Achievement'

- **Undergraduate: LCM, University of West London**

- BMus (Hons) Music Composition (with first class honours)
- LLCM Licentiate Conducting Diploma

# Mission Statement...

Present a concert focused directly on an environmental issue/s:



## Awareness

for audiences about  
climate issues



## Collaborate

with charities on  
environmental  
discourses



## Promote

less familiar and new  
music inspired by  
the environment

# Market Analysis...

**83%**

not attended any events or activities related to climate awareness

**1/2+**

feel they only have a basic or moderate understanding of climate change

**61%+**

interested in attending a concert influenced/inspired by environment

# Initial concert: Odonata...

- **Symphonic work** (10'00")
  - Inspired by dragonflies and damselflies
- **Raise awareness** towards their declining numbers and habitat loss in the UK
  - Celebrate the species and charities fighting for their protection
- **Performed** alongside other environmental works...
  - Focus on wildlife or relating environmental issues

# Odonata

for Symphony Orchestra

Matthew Elderton Lewis

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## The Concert:

While *Odonata* bears personal significance in this project, it is paramount to recognise its position within a broader tradition of composers drawing inspiration from the environment and/or subsequently dedicated their works to it and its preservation. Having curated the plan for this project, I have encompassed a diverse list of potential repertoire to accompany *Odonata* fit for such an opportunity. Using nature and wildlife as either creative inspiration or as a means to stimulate climate conversations, the following list offers a selection of suggested works and their instrumentation - pieces composed after 1948 are still within copyright and starred works are by female composers:

Date	Composer	Name of work	mins	Instrumentation
<b>Repertoire of a similar length to <i>Odonata</i>:</b>				
1891	Dvorak	Nature's Realm	10'	2+pic.2+corA.2+bcl.2 - 4.2.3.1 - timp.perc - str
1895	Sibelius	Swan of Tuonela	9'	0.0+corA.0+bcl.2 - 4.0.3.0 - timp.perc - harp - str
1911	Delius	On Hearing the First Cuckoo of Spring	7'	1.1.2.2 - 2.0.0.0 - str
1917	Villa-Lobos	Amazonas	12'	2+2pic.2+corA.2+bcl.2+cbn - 4.4.3.2 - timp(2).perc - hp(2).cel.pno - str
*1995	Weir	Forest	12'	3.2+corA.3.2+cbn - 4.4.3.1 - timp.2perc(mba) - strings
*2007	Grime	Virga	6'	3(2)pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbn - 4.3.1+btbn.1 - 2timp.(3)opiperc - hp.cel - str
2018	Shepherd	Melt	15'	2+pic.2+corA.2+bcl.2+cbn - 4.3.2+btbn.1 - timp.3perc - hp.cel - str
2020	L. Adams	Become River	15'	2(pic)2.2.2 - 2.2.0.0 - timp.2perc - str
<b>Repertoire you may not have heard of:</b>				
1912	Roussel	The Spider's Feast	30'	2(2=pic).2(2=corA).2.2 - 2.2.0.0 - timp.perc - hp.cel - str
1934	Villa-Lobos	Uirapuru 'The Enchanted Little Bird'	20'	2+pic.2+corA.2+bcl.2+cbn.sax - 4.3.3.1 - timp.perc - 2hp.pf.violinophone - str
1988	Aho	Finest Symphony	45'	Symphonic Orchestra (Shorthand N/A)
1990	Yoshimatsu	Symphony No. 1 'Kamui Cuckoo'	45'	2+pic+fl.2+corA.2+bcl.2+cbn - 6.4.3+btbn.1 - timp.5perc - pf.synth.cel - str
*1995	Thomas	Words of the Sea	17'	3+pic.2+corA.3(3=cbcl)+bcl.2+cbn - 4.2+ptpt.2+btbn.1 - timp.4perc - hp(=2).pf - str
*2001	Wan	The welcome arrival of rain	16'	3(3=pic).2+ca.3.3 - 4.4.0.0 - timp.3perc - hp - str
<b>Familiar repertoire works:</b>				
1808	Beethoven	Symphony No.6 'Pastorale'	45'	2+pic.2.2.2 - 2.2.2.0 - timp - str
1877	Brahms	Symphony No. 2	45'	2.2.2.2 - 4.2.3.1 - timp - str
1902	Sibelius	Symphony No.2	45'	2.2.2.2 - 4.3.3.1 - timp - str
1905	Debussy	La Mer	23'	2+pic.2+corA.2.3(3=cbn) - 4.3+2cn.3.1 - timp.perc - 2hp - str

# Beyond EcoMelodies...

- **Commissions/Competitions**

- Provide opportunities for creatives to shed light on areas of environmental concern personal to them.

- **Education**

- Concerts could be structured into engaging lecture/presentation-based formats to reinforce new and/or ongoing issues alongside the performance

- **Multimedia**

- Visual stimuli to accompany or inform music during said concerts may prove to further strengthen creative and audience engagement with environmental discourses.



<https://www.aroraorchestra.com/event/scale-of-spring-bbc-2024>



<https://www.lso.co.uk/whats-on/tangram-nature-echo/>



<https://www.thesoundarchitect.co.uk/planet-earth-ii-concert-review>



## Every Tree Speaks to Me!

11th January 2024, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, London, SW1X 9DQ

Every Tree Speaks to Me! How the Natural World influenced composers

**Beethoven** - Symphony No 6

**Wagner** - Forest Murmurs from Siegfried Act 2

**Janáček** - Suite from The Cunning Little Vixen

<https://cadoganhall.com/whats-on/odyssey-festival-orchestra-every-tree-speaks-to-me>



# Sustainable approaches...



## Stream

concerts to reduce  
audience carbon  
footprints



## Digital

concert programmes  
to save on physical  
resources



## Charities

receive donations/  
percentage from  
programmes

# Support and interest (so far)...

- **British Dragonfly Society** have offered to publicise this initial concert and the project on their social media and newsletter
- **Essex Wildlife Trust** interested in promoting through their podcast series to discuss dragonflies and damselflies in greater detail
- **Sir David Attenborough**, whilst not available to support the project directly, shows interest and encourages the project