

Adrian Lever

MA / LRSM

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EDUCATION

Adrian studied music at **City University London** under electroacoustic composers **Denis Smalley** and **Simon Emmerson**, taking piano lessons at the **Guildhall School of Music and Drama** and graduating in 2001. He gained an **LRSM piano performance diploma** in 2015 under guidance from Belgrade-based pianists **LP Duo**, and completed a **Sonic Arts Masters** with distinction at **Oxford Brookes University** under **Patrick Farmer** in 2020.

PERFORMANCE

Piano

Piano/organ performances include the Norwich-based **Voice Project** as pianist and improviser working alongside choirs, vocal soloists and instrumentalists including leading UK jazz saxophonist **Andy Shepard**, Norwegian trumpet player **Arve Henriksen** and legendary British pedal steel player **B.J. Cole**. On-site specific pieces include the nocturnal piece **Arms of Sleep** joint-commissioned for **Brighton International and Norfolk & Norwich Festivals**.

Initiating **Confluence Project** in 2015, a multi-media post-impressionist piano improvisation performance piece inspired by water flow-forms and his East Anglian coastal home, Adrian was awarded an **Arts Council Project Grant** to develop the piece with sound artist **Bill Vine** and performed at **The Cello Factory Southbank London**, **Anteros Arts Foundation Norwich**, **Norwich Arts Centre** (supporting **Grandbrothers**). Further work with Bill Vine includes performance piece **Flux Intermedia** (Norwich Arts Centre) using prepared and bowed piano with electronics and dance and choreographed by **Vinicius Salles**.

Adrian's masters studies at Oxford Brookes UK saw him develop a sound practice based on field recording and instrumental response. His **prize-winning major project Watermark** brought together recordings of the threatened river-ecologies of Stara Planina (south-east Serbia) with body recordings, dual-prepared-microtonal piano, and the writings of Astrida Neimanis in **Bodies of Water**.

Guitar/Tambura

As a folk guitarist and Bulgarian tambura (long-necked lute) player, Adrian currently performs at major festivals such as **Bath International**, **Brighton Early Music Festival**, **Celtic Connections Glasgow**, **Sidmouth Folk Festival** and **Caceres Fleadh** (Spain). He regularly tours venues in the UK and Europe with trio **Gavin Fairhall Lever** and with vocalist/producer **Jovana Backovic** in electro-balkan duo **Arhai**.

Past groups include award-winning folk/early music experimentalists **Horses Brawl**, releasing three acclaimed albums with fiddle/recorder player **Laura Cannell**, and performing at major UK festivals, live on **BBC Radio 3** and with a commissioned work with composer **Anna Meredith**. **Alma**, featuring leading English folk fiddler **John Dipper**, and **Stepling** featuring champion clog dancer **Toby Bennett**. Other past highlights include performing with BBC Radio 2 folk-award winning singer

Bella Hardy, and Macedonian singer **Tanja Tzarovska** (*Troy, The Passion of the Christ*) at **Barbican Main Stage, London**.

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT/TEACHING

As a piano accompanist Adrian worked regularly at **City University** during his degree and after, accompanying performance exams and performing contemporary classical works in City Lights Ensemble.

He worked alongside international opera composer **Howard Moody** in 2016/17 delivering two projects for **Glyndebourne** and **Norwich Theatre Royal's Norfolk Schools' Opera Project**, re-composing operas in collaboration with primary school students and **accompanying Glyndebourne soloists**. He was also employed at **Dance East Ipswich** where he used improvisation exclusively as a tool for ballet class accompaniment.

Adrian has also worked closely with several Suzuki-method violin teachers accompanying regularly for **Suzuki Hub Hackney** (London), **Hannah Saucedo** (London), **Rosie Toll** (Norwich), **Little Venice Suzuki Group** (London). Other freelance work includes accompanying for **Future Talent** at the **Royal Academy of Music**, the **Tri-borough Music Hub** (London), the **Norfolk County Music Festival**, UK instrumental grade exams, and music college/university entrance exams. He is passionate about bringing the best out of young students' performances emphasising collaborative performance from the earliest age.

As a folk guitarist specialising in English and Irish traditional music accompaniment Adrian is a sought-after 'backer' (rhythm guitarist) on the London folk scene and is often employed to host traditional music sessions in London and run guitar workshops at festivals. He has also joint-run workshops for creative approaches to Early Music for **The Royal Academy of Music** (London), **Brighton Early Music Festival** and **Hexham Abbey Festival**.

As a teacher of piano and guitar Adrian continues to work both online and in person. He has worked with piano students through the UK grade system up to grade 8, and has worked in schools teaching both guitar and piano for the **Tri-borough Music Hub** (London) and **Norwich School for Girls GDST** delivering one-to-one and small group tuition on electric, classical and folk guitar. He has also delivered folk guitar workshops and evening classes for **Whitby Folk Week**, **Fire in the Mountain Festival**, and **The Mary Ward Centre** (London).

QUOTES/REFERENCES

Rosie Toll - Suzuki Violin Teacher

"Adrian worked alongside me for 10 years as an accompanist for my students' group lessons and concerts. He also accompanied them for ABRSM exams and music festivals. He is an exceptional musician and facilitator, creating a supportive yet musically stretching experience for the students. He embodies the ideal skill set of the accompanist, flexibility, fearlessness and positivity!"

Jonathan Baker FRSA - Co-director, The Voice Project

"Adrian is a brilliant and sensitive pianist. He creates excellent and original improvisations which have enhanced the two recent site-specific Voice Project shows he has contributed to. Skilfully, he took the existing themes from the choral music and extemporised around them in a number of styles which were always sensitive to the atmospheres we were trying to create." www.voiceproject.co.uk

Howard Moody - Opera Composer, Conductor, Keyboard Player

"I have had the privilege to work with Adrian Lever on the Norfolk Schools Project. He is an incredibly versatile musician, always open to different styles and approaches to creating music. It is always a pleasure to work with his conscientious approach to preparation as well as spontaneous ability to improvise on piano and guitar. www.howardmoody.co.uk

Adrian Jones - Cornwall Folk Festival

"Adrian Lever's guitar is a driving drum kit, the syncopated complex rhythm comping of a jazz pianist, a harp-like cascade, or just damn good fingerpicking."