

An abstract painting with a dark background, featuring vibrant, swirling colors of blue, yellow, red, and green. A golden treble clef is visible on the left, and a golden bass clef is on the right. The overall style is expressive and modern.

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY
**CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016**



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
UNIVERSITY

**Christopher Newport
University**

**Contemporary Music
Festival 2016**

presents

**Conversations with a Composer
Contemporary Music Ensemble
Composers Forum
Young Composers Competition**

Dr. Christopher Cook, director

**featuring guest composer
Dr. Jonathan David Little, Professor of Composition
University of Chichester (England)**

**March 28-30, 2016
Music and Theatre Hall
Ferguson Center for the Arts**





Jonathan David Little, featured composer

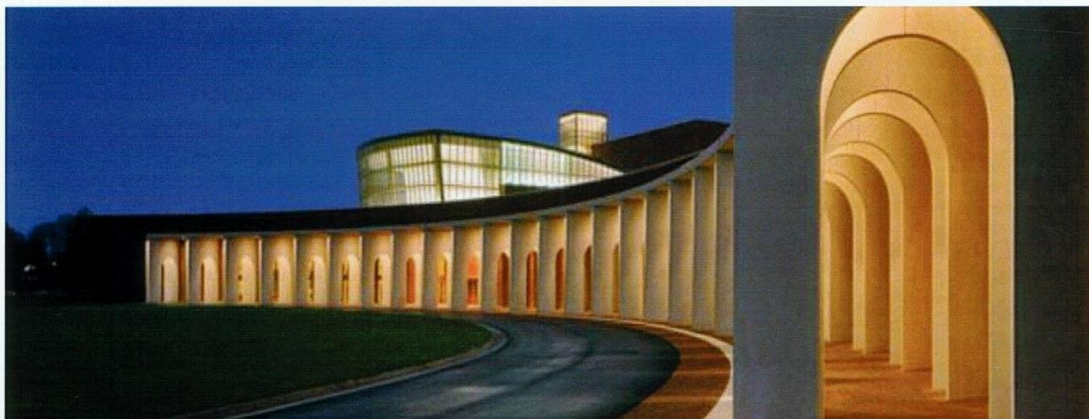
The atmospheric and evocative music of Jonathan David Little is notable for its mystical beauty, intensity and richness of material. On the strength of the excellence of both his music, and of his writings on music, he was the first Australian-born composer to be awarded the John Clementi Collard Fellowship (2011), one of the most prestigious awards of the City of London's ancient Worshipful Company of Musicians (est.1500) – and one of the most coveted musical awards in Britain. He was also the first composer of any nationality to receive a Professional Development Award from the UK music business's own charity, the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. His compositional style has been variously described as "Ecstatic Minimalism" or "Archaic Futurism" – blending art music, folk/Celtic, and other sacred and secular musical influences, from as far back as the fourteenth century, with new and innovative textures and orchestration (sometimes also including spatial effects).

Jonathan studied music at the University of Melbourne – winning the Lady Turner Exhibition for overall excellence – then undertook a PhD studying the development of "exotic" orchestration in 19th- and 20th-century music. A former Prefect of the Australian National Boys' Choir and member of the Australian Youth Orchestra (participating in the 1988 Grand Bicentennial European Tour), Jonathan performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and for new music workshops of the Australian Opera.

Jonathan's compositions have won multiple ASCAP and critics' choice awards in the USA, as well as PRS, Bliss and Leighton Trust Awards in the UK. His first major album was one of US Fanfare magazine's top recommended recordings for 2008 – acclaiming "a major new, original and quite brilliant classical voice" – while his 2012 album, Polyhymnia, featuring several European orchestras, was nominated in Spain for "Best Album of the Year". In 2015, Jonathan was granted a major Australian Government/Australia Council "Individual International Arts Project Award," to help fund the creation and recording of a new album of multi-part, a cappella polychoral music, and he was invited to be "Featured Composer" at the CNU Contemporary Music Festival (USA) in 2016—including a showcase concert of his works in the Music and Theatre Hall, Ferguson Center for the Arts, in Virginia. He was also one of only seven living British composers whose work was selected for the Royal Philharmonic Society's "ENCORE Choral" Programme—for performance and live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 during 2016-17. His music is published in Australia by Wirripang.



From 2001 to 2005, Jonathan was Principal of the UK's Academy of Contemporary Music, which was, at that time, Europe's leading institution for students of contemporary music and the first music education institution to win the Queen's Award for Enterprise (Innovation Category). Prior to that, he was Senior Lecturer at Buckinghamshire New University on their pioneering Music Industry Management course (the first such degree course in Europe), where he specialized in the workings of the British and international recording industry and taught songwriting analysis. As an author, Jonathan writes and edits works on a variety of music-related topics, ranging from historical works discussing cultural history, instrumentation and orchestration to more topical writings on popular music performance and the future of the music and entertainment industries. In a series of articles commissioned in 2001-02 for "American Outlook" magazine, published by The Hudson Institute—an independent scholarly think-tank which helps shape US government policy—Jonathan was one of the first writers to assess the phenomenon of the "celestial jukebox", the state of contemporary songwriting in the new millennium, and the implications of the rise of digital cinema. In 2001, he co-founded, "Music Business Journal," and was for five years its joint Managing Editor. From 2003-2005, he was Series Editor of the 36-volume, "Academy Popular Music Tuition Series." In 2005, he was appointed first Consultant Editor to A&C Black's flagship volume of musical reference, the, "Musicians' and Songwriters' Yearbook," (with Forewords by the Heads of EMI Music Publishing and of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry). At the invitation of the British Academy, he contributed a chapter on contemporary songwriting to "Heart & Soul: Revealing the Craft of Songwriting", published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Ivor Novello Awards (London: Sanctuary Publishing, 2005). More recently, his "vast" and "erudite" two-volume, 950-page study of musical and literary orientalism won an Authors' Foundation/Royal Literary Fund Award (New York: EMP, 2010-11), and he is working on further volumes in the series and a major text on musical composition. He is a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of America's National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.



The Department of Music

Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, Christopher Newport University offers the Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in Composition, Jazz Studies, Music Education, and Performance; the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Music; and the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Music Education. Professional instruction is available on all woodwind, brass, percussion, and string instruments as well as piano, harpsichord, organ, and in voice, composition, improvisation, and conducting. The ensembles include the Wind Ensemble, University Band, Marching Band, University Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Chamber Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, Opera CNU, and numerous chamber ensembles. Student organizations include the American Choral Directors Association, American String Teachers Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, the National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Society for Composers, Inc.

Conversations with a Composer

featuring Jonathan David Little

Dr. Little will present two public lectures:

Monday, March 28, 12-12:50 p.m., Ferguson A183: *The Music of Jonathan David Little: Exploring Influences and Stylistic Labels*

Tuesday, March 29, 12:15-1 p.m., Ferguson A183: *The Materials and Mechanics of Music Composition*

