

Alex Paxton

Composer



“ Fantastic delirium”

Tom Service, BBC Radio 3 New Music Show

Alex Paxton is an award-winning composer & jazz-trombonist. His scores are published by Schott Music.

He has been described as “A Magician of Sound...hyperkinetic rainbow-hued...joy & freedom” (*Financial Times*), “the most joyous sound I’ve heard in ages!” (*New York Times*), “A riotous overabundance of love and rage...an extraordinary experience” (*The Wire*), “a system-crasher of genre... unmistakable style... highly complex, sophisticated and extremely entertaining, virtuoso ad absurdum” (*Neue Zeitschrift für Musik*), and “a super nova... a brazen sensorial mash up... riot and a rainbow...brimingly heartfelt multi sensorial, genuinely energising fizzer of a new work...super charged joy...forces us all to sit up and loosen up and buck up” (*Kate Mollison, BBC New Music Show*).

His music has been awarded: an Ivor Novello, the Paul Hindemith Prize (“a Brit who defies every conceivable genre boundary...an extremely modern and future-oriented style”), the Ernst von Siemens Composer Prize (“Unbridled joy...sophisticated, passionate music full of pulsating energy and stylistic diversity”), the Elb Philharmonie’s Claussen Simon Composition Prize, RPS Royal Philharmonic

Society Prize, Dankworth Jazz Prize, Leverhulme Art Scholarship with London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Harriet Cohen Memorial Music Award, and in 2026 he won the ‘New in Italy’ award as part of the ‘Franco Abbiati’ Music Critics Awards.

Alex has released five critically acclaimed albums: *Candyfolk Space Drum* (Jonah Records), *MUSIC for BOSCH PEOPLE* (Birmingham Record Company/ NMC label), *iLOLLI-POP* (non-classical), *Happy Music for Orchestra* (Delphian), and *Delicious* (New Amsterdam Records) as well as many smaller releases. Each has been widely reviewed and featured in UK, USA and Europe in broad sheets (NYT, Guardian, Times, Financial Times etc) and Music magazines (The Wire, Q, NME, Bandcamp, Neue Zeitschrift für Musik, Crescendo, Positionen, Point of Departure etc.) He is a commissioned contributor to John Zorn’s *Arcana X* 2021.

His music is frequently performed internationally by many of the world’s leading orchestras, ensembles and festivals: London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), WDR Symphony Orchestra, NDR Elb Philharmonie Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Klang Forum Wien, London Sinfonietta, AskSchönenberg, Re-Mix Ensemble, Riot Ensemble, Explore Ensemble, Load Bang Ensemble, Sitron Sinfonietta, Ensemble Klang, London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), National Youth Orchestra GB, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain, NDR Big Band, WDR Big Band, BBC proms, Bang on a Can Long Play, Paris Festival d’Automne, MearzMusik, Guadeamus, ECLAT, impulse Graz, Now essen, Klangspuren swartz, Wigmore hall, Klammer Klang, Making Music (UK), Hyper Duo, National Youth Jazz Orchestra (UK) NYJO, Listen-Pony, Aldeburgh Festival. “Alex Paxton’s fascinating score impressed me from the very first moment... the notes literally jumped out at me from the score; it was clear that this was a unique compositional voice, combining a complex, almost chaotic sensibility with a charming grounding in folk tradition.” (*conductor Alan Gilbert*)

He has written six operas hosted by English National Opera and Helios Collective, Tête à

Tête opera festival, Second Movement Opera.

As a jazz trombone soloist “Paxton is a monster improviser” (*Bandcamp*), Alex has performed concerto-like pieces of his own with WDR Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, London Sinfonietta, Asko: Schoenberg, Riot Ensemble, Ensemble Klang, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), & ensemble x.y. “secretly one of the greatest trombone players in the world” (*BBC Music Magazine*).

He is founder of Dreammusics ensemble and performs regularly with pioneering improvisers (eg: Charlotte Keeffe, Steve Noble). “meticulously scored...seems to change with every bar, unfolding bite-size pieces of classic minimalism, brass brand tradition, electronic noise, & video game plasticity...intensely virtuosic and giddily joyful. electronically slathered trombone... connects his garrulous attack to the most extroverted playing of George Lewis & Roswell Rudd...” (*Bandcamp Daily Best Contemporary Classical*).

Alex has written extensively for musicians in community settings including, innovative ways of writing for young instrumentalists and singers in a post-Roald Dahl world of new-music. including: *NOGGIN and the WHALE* (Massed forces including 500 young instrumentalists and singers), *Fly Like a Kitchen, Muffin, Pudding Tummy* and *The smelling test*.

He is professorial composition staff at Trinity Laban Conservatoire and has worked as lead-composition tutor (and workshop leader) on the National Youth Orchestra GB, he has taught/ lectured at composition and improvisation at conservatories including, RAM, GSMD, RCM, The Royal Conservatoire (NL) (and multiple universities). Alex studied as a scholar at Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music.

Alex is an endorsed solo artist with Michael Rath Trombones.

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