

Omri Kochavi (b. 1994) is an Israeli composer and guitarist based in London. He is currently pursuing his Masters in Composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with Julian Anderson. His work draws its language from a broad range of influences, whilst simultaneously focusing on the reality of sound, people, and the interaction between them.

Most recently, Omri was amongst the composers selected for the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme for 2021-2022, working towards a commission for the 2022 Aldeburgh Festival. The commissioned project will be a multimedia exploration of the composer's Iraqi-Jewish heritage, covering topics ranging from alternative views of exile and immigration to household ghostbusting. Centred around the writings of contemporary Iraq-born Hebrew poet Amira Hess, combined with texts found on different archaeological artefacts from ancient Babylon, it unravels this culture's richness across 2500 years. The project is to range across music, film, and digital work, culminating in a choral piece written for the BBC Singers which will be performed by them at the 2022 Aldeburgh Festival and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Mentors on the program include composers and performers such as Cassandra Miller, Richard Ayres, Larry Goves, Juliet Fraser, Laura Bowler, Loré Lixenberg, and Zubin Kanga.

Other upcoming and recent projects include solo, chamber, and orchestral pieces written for ensembles and artists such as EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble, Plus Minus Ensemble, Ligeti Quartet, Guildhall Session Orchestra, PHACE Ensemble, Meitar Ensemble, Shiri Coneh, the Israeli Chamber Project, and Hagai Yodan. Omri's orchestral piece "Yam-Yabasha" was recently selected as part of the Orchestra of Opera North's Minute Masterpieces project, and will be recorded and premiered by them in the 2021-2022 Kirklees Concert Season.

Omri frequently works with dance, and has a lasting connection with Finnish choreographer Ella Holappa. Omri and Ella first worked together in 2020 on "dustball.co.uk", a semi-interactive website piece. They are currently working on a new project for the 2022 Resolution Festival where they also perform, alongside respective long-time collaborators flautist Yoav Feinberg and dancer-choreographer Ella Posti.

Besides composition, Omri is also an active guitarist. He holds a BFA in jazz guitar from The New School (New York), and plays regularly in both jazz and contemporary music contexts, performing his work and others'.

Omri is generously supported by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation (Sharett Scholarship), the Jerusalem Institute of Contemporary Music (Siday Fellowship for Musical Creativity). He was the winner of the 2nd prize in The Israeli National Composition Competition (2019), the Dean's Award at Mannes (2019), and was a finalist in the 2020 Aviv Competitions held by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Omri holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours from The New School (New York), where he studied composition at Mannes with Dr. Lowell Liebermann and jazz guitar at The School of Jazz.