

Dr. Liam McCartan  
Curriculum Vitae & Cover Letter

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Dear Members of the Appointment Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the Lecturer in Music position at Queen's University Belfast. Having completed my undergraduate degree, Master of Research, and PhD in Music at the Sonic Arts Research Centre, I am keen to contribute to the School's teaching and research environment.

I currently work as a Part-time Music Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast, where I deliver composition lectures to a class of 66 students, provide one-to-one tutorials, and design and assess assignments, including the marking and grading of composition portfolios with detailed feedback. Alongside this, I am a Part-time Music Lecturer at Belfast Metropolitan College, teaching across a broad range of modules including Composition, Composition for Digital Media, Musicology, Live Sound and Events, Music Production, Music Industry Practices, and Music Theory to students at Level 3, Foundation Degree, and HND levels.

I also work as an Associate Examiner with Pearson Education, assessing DAW production portfolios and written work, which has further developed my assessment and feedback practices. In addition, I have delivered over 1,700 lessons as a private tutor at Strandtown Music Academy, teaching instrumental performance, music theory, and composition/songwriting from beginner to advanced (Grades 1–8).

Earlier in my career, I worked as a Teaching Assistant at SARC, supporting lectures for cohorts of 65 students through workshops, feedback sessions, assessment, and performance critique. Alongside my academic roles, I maintain an active freelance practice as a composer, performer, sound designer, producer, and FOH manager, ensuring my teaching remains industry-informed and practice-led.

I have also contributed to the wider arts community through my role as Co-Director of Catalyst Arts Belfast, where I led programming, curation, installation, and public engagement activities, and through organising live music events and artist collaborations. These experiences have strengthened my organisational, administrative, and interpersonal skills, and support my ability to contribute to outreach and university service. My research focuses on practice-based approaches to memory in composition, music technology, and sound, and I am developing a portfolio of research outputs aligned with interdisciplinary work in these areas. I am committed to building an active research profile through publication, collaboration, and conference presentation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Liam McCartan

Education @ Queen's University Belfast	Result
PhD in Music Composition and Production (2017-2022) [Title: "Composing in and out of the (Post-)Club: Resynthesis of club music and the personal past"]	Pass
Masters of Research in Arts and Humanities (2016-2017)	Distinction
Bachelors in Music (2013 - 2016)	First Class Honours

Work	Roles
Part-time Music Lecturer @ Queens University Belfast (2026-present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Composition lecturing for class of 66</li> <li>- 1 to 1 Tutorials</li> <li>- Marking and grading of composition portfolios with feedback</li> <li>- Setting and creation of assignments</li> </ul>
Associate Examiner @ Pearson Education (2025-present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marking and grading of DAW production portfolios and essays with feedback</li> </ul>
Part-time Music Lecturer @ Belfast Metropolitan College (2024-Present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecturing <b>Composition, Composition For Digital Media, Musicology, Live Sound And Live Events, Music Production, Music Industry Practices, Music Theory for Higher National Diploma, Foundation Degree, and Level 3 students</b></li> </ul>
Private Tutor @ Strandtown Music Academy (2024-present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 1700 lessons for instrumental, theory and songwriting/composition</li> <li>- Teaching material Grade 1-8</li> </ul>
Freelancer (2017 - Present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Composer</li> <li>- Performer</li> <li>- Sound Designer</li> <li>- Sound Mixer</li> <li>- Producer</li> <li>- FOH Manager</li> </ul>
Co-Director @ Catalyst Arts Belfast (Oct 2017- Nov 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programming</li> <li>- Curation Management</li> <li>- Installation construction</li> <li>- Public Relations</li> <li>- Invigilation of workshops</li> <li>- Interviewer</li> </ul>
Teaching Assistant @ Sonic Arts Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast (Oct 2019 - March 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecture class of 65 students</li> <li>- Feedback sessions</li> <li>- Marking and grading of composition portfolios</li> <li>- Setting of assignments</li> <li>- Performance critique</li> <li>- Performance workshopping</li> </ul>

**Press quotes of my work:**

"Northern Ireland's resident electronic compositional polymath...Son Zept re-synthesises electronic music history into an electrifying machine for transforming the present" - **The Quietus**

"Son Zept delivers deft shock & awe" - **The Wire**

"dismantling electronic styles, and rearranging the fragments into something fierce, vibrant and his own." - **DJ Mag**

"...one of the finest and most interesting projects to emerge from the city in quite some time." - **Clash**

<b>Freelance Work + Commissions</b> Link: <a href="https://www.liammccartan.com/commissions">https://www.liammccartan.com/commissions</a>	<b>Description</b>
Composing soundtrack for Drama film “Pedras Preciosas” (2026)	Created under the mentorship of Werner Herzog and Cine Extatica during a workshop on the Azores Island, to be released 2026
Composing soundtrack for “Pollanroe Burn” (2025)	Shot on 16mm employing documentary forms, choreographed sequences, and expansive compositions that conjure speculative transformations
Composing soundtrack for Drama film “ILLIADT” (2025)	To Be Released 2026
Composing soundtrack for Horror film “Deviant” (2025)	To Be Released Late 2025
Composition for “It Is & I Am” (2024)	Experimental art Film created premiered at Belfast Exposed Gallery in Belfast
Sound Design for Amanda Rice’s “The sound of language” film (2024)	Screened at the British Film Festival 2024
Compose Organ works for the Portico De Ards (2024)	Performed at 2024 at the Festival of Light
Keystone (2023)	Commissioned by Clare Arts Office to celebrate 20 years of arts in education programming. Collaboration with 5th year students to create a film.
Compose soundtrack for ‘I Danced Frightening Things’ (2023)	Commissioned by Queen’s Film Theatre as part of BFI ‘Cinema Unbound: The Creative Worlds of Powell and Pressburger’
Composing soundtrack for short film ‘Lure’ (2022)	Premiered at Belfast Film Festival and Cork Film Festival
Composition and arrangement of soundtrack for Emily McFarlands video work ‘Black Bog’ (2021)	Shown as part of the 39th EVA International - Ireland’s Art Biennale
Composing Video Game Soundtrack for Billy Goat Entertainment Studios (June 2019)	Demo used as means obtaining funding to support full production of game
Score experimental theatre work ‘Sometimes you never know what’s in someone’s heart’ (Oct 2018)	Write and perform score for to then be performed in CCA ( <i>Funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland</i> )
Write a piece for Dance Performance & Projection as part of ‘Queerwerk: Zipporah Reynolds’ exhibition (Jul 2018)	Performed in Framework Art Gallery
Score experimental theatre work ‘Where Men Go to Die’ (Apr 2017)	Write and perform score to be performed in Millennium Court ( <i>Funded by the ACNI</i> )
Create electroacoustic composition for AVA festival (Jan 2017)	To be used as promotional material for electronic music festival
<b>Artist Residencies + Awards + Grants</b>	<b>Info</b>
Dumbworld NI Film Scoring Week	Creating a soundtrack for a short film in a week to be performed by the Hard Rain Ensemble
Cathedral Arts Bursary (March 2024)	Funding to complete new compositions

The University of Atypical Award (March 2024)	Funding to explore audiovisual creations for new performances
Arts Council NI and National Lottery SIAP (January 2024)	Awarded to research and develop a repertoire for Organ and perform new compositions
CCI Artist's Residences @ Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris (Oct - Dec 2022)	Awarded a 5-week residency in which I created an album from material recorded around and inspired by Paris

Curatorial Work and Talks Link: <a href="https://www.liammccartan.com/curatorial">https://www.liammccartan.com/curatorial</a>	Description
<i>Catalyst Audio Tracks 2 @ SARC</i> (Sep 2019)	2nd edition of the compilation
<i>Resonance @ Catalyst Arts</i> (Aug-Sep 2019)	Sound Art exhibition featuring work from <b>Sunn O))), Holly Herndon, Objekt, Phurpa</b>
<i>Synthesis @ Catalyst Arts</i> (Sep-Nov 2018)	Sound Art, Visual Installation, and Reactive Sculpture Exhibition with <b>Gabor Lazar, Thomas McConville and Paul Stapleton</b>
<i>Catalyst Audio Tracks 1 @ SARC</i> (Aug 2018)	Compilation of experimental composition and sound art then presented at an event held in SARC's Sonic Lab
'Academic Techno' Seminar @ SARC (Feb 2017)	Seminar regarding my compositional methods held in SARC's Sonic Lab

Selected Recordings Link: <a href="https://www.liammccartan.com/releases">https://www.liammccartan.com/releases</a>	Description
Son Zept - 'New Ireland Chrome' EP (2023)	EP ( <i>Vinyl, Digital</i> ) Released on Spanish Record Label Analogical Force
Son Zept - 'B' Album (August 2020)	Album ( <i>Digital</i> ) Released on RESIST Music Video: <i>Trophy Run</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua9TkGLBNm8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua9TkGLBNm8</a>
Son Zept - 'A' Album (Jan 2020)	Album ( <i>Digital</i> ) Released on RESIST Music Video: <i>Arrival</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8-F1l1rnRA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8-F1l1rnRA</a>
Son Zept - Q2B EP (Oct 2018)	40 minute EP ( <i>Vinyl, Digital</i> ) covering electronic genre deconstruction, contemporary minimalism, power-ambient, all with IDM and electroacoustic sensibilities. Released on RESIST Music Video: <i>Rave Memory</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1G_4NmopuM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1G_4NmopuM</a>
Sohmm EP (July 2016)	Techno EP ( <i>Digital</i> ) exploring found sound released on Italian record label ARTS DGTL
Wolf Like Me - 'L.E.A.D. EP' (June 2015)	EP ( <i>Digital and CD</i> )

Selected Performances/Showcases (DJ sets excluded) Link: <a href="https://www.liammccartan.com/performances">https://www.liammccartan.com/performances</a>	Notes
Night Voyager @ The Black Box (Oct 2024)	Support for Ela Orleans
Black Box 18th Anniversary Celebration (April 2024)	Audiovisual Performance
Portico De Ards (Mar 2024)	Commissioned to create new work for Organ and electronics for Festival 2024
Dublin Kirkos Ensemble @ Unit 44 (Dec 2023)	Quantum performance

Selected Performances/Showcases (DJ sets excluded) Link: <a href="https://www.liammccartan.com/performances">https://www.liammccartan.com/performances</a>	Notes
Fix Festival 23 @ SARC (Nov 2023)	As part of Catalyst Arts Performance Arts Festival
Spilt @ Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Sligo (Oct 2023)	Film and audio-visual showcase
Handmade Music @ Accidental Theatre (Feb 2023)	Premiere of conceptual album w/ Pinsleep
Collaboration and performance with <b>MATMOS</b> @ SARC (July 2022)	Performance of workshop creations
Sonic Lab @ SARC (May 2022)	AV show with <b>Claire Rousey</b>
Sonorities Festival @ Banana Block (April 2022)	Curated, Organised and Performed
Table It @ Black Box (Sept 2021)	1-hour audio-visual performance
Output Belfast Festival @ Bullit Belfast (Jan 2020)	Showcase of Irish musicians
Oscillations & Modulations Festival @ Culturlann Derry (Sept 2019)	Performing as Festival Headliner
Breezeblock Blockbuster @ El Divino Belfast (June 2019)	1-day electronic music mini-festival
Open Ear Festival @ Sherkin Island (June 2019)	Midnight slot at experimental music festival
<b>HIVE</b> Choir Collaboration @ SARC (Feb 2019)	Collaborative piece and performance with premiere of my piece 'Blood Gloss'
Son Zept - Q2B EP Launch @ The Menagerie (Oct 2018)	With support from <b>Renick Bell</b> and <b>Bloom</b>
Resist X Sonorities @ The Menagerie (Apr 2018)	Son Zept Performance
Umbrella's 'Same Place' @ SARC (Apr 2018)	Participation in an Audio/Visual installation
Resist Presents @ The Menagerie (Mar 2018)	Son Zept Live Performance
Fjord Melt/Cold Hands @ The Art Department (Feb 2018)	Collaborative 3-hour Audio/Visual installation/performance
<i>Umbrella In the Stairwell</i> @ SARC (Dec 2017)	Premiere of Collaborative 9-minute Audio/Visual work Fjord Melt/Cold Hands
Resist Presents @ The Menagerie (Aug 2017)	Premiere of Son Zept work
Concert @ SARC (Dec 2016)	Performed electroacoustic works for a delegation of the British Council visiting Queens university
Sonorities Contemporary Music Festival @ SARC (Nov 2016)	Electroacoustic Piece 'Tuning a planet' premiered in Sonic Lab
'Indigenous' @ Catalyst Arts (Oct 2016)	Performed original acousmatic compositions