

From the Director

Professor Colin Lawson CBE MA (Oxon) MA PhD DMus FRCM FRNCM FLCM HonRAM



Arts Council England
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
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4 November 2020

Dear Sirs,

I am delighted to write this letter of endorsement for Chinese screen composer Yin Lu to remain in the United Kingdom as a screen composer possessing exceptional promise.

Yin first came to my attention in 2018 when he joined the Royal College of Music (RCM) Masters of Composition in Composition for Screen course. To gain his place for this challenging course, he demonstrated exceptional skill and an already wide-ranging portfolio in composition. During his two years at the RCM, Yin has extensively developed his own voice as a composer for screen and concert performance. He has thrived throughout his time at the RCM, and has shown great determination and total commitment to his studies. Testament to his hard work and talent, Yin graduated with a first class degree in 2020.

Yin's is highly regarded at the RCM and as such his work has been featured in many College concerts. He contributed to the SU Christmas Concert (2018) with his orchestration of *White Christmas*. Yin was commissioned by the RCM Oriental Culture Society to arrange three traditional folk songs for soprano and chamber ensemble which were performed at the RCM Chinese New Year Concert (2020) held in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall. His scores for animations were also twice selected for the annual Screen Composers' Showcase performed by musicians from the RCM in the Britten Theatre (2019) and online (2020).

Yin has made a significant contribution as an ambassador for the College and towards the UK's cultural life and has represented the RCM at numerous prestigious performances and screenings in the UK and around the world. The feature film *The Captain* (2019), for which he composed additional music and orchestrated the score, was screened in 9 countries including China, the UK, the US and Australia. His chamber piece *Cottage and Rainbow* inspired by John Constable's painting, was performed at two concerts at the Royal Academy of Arts in 2018 and 2019 as part of the academy's 250th anniversary celebrations. His experimental score for the animation *The Nature of Studio* was premiered at the Tate Modern in February 2020. Since graduating, Yin stood out from the 16 final nominees in this year's European Talent Competition of SoundTrack Cologne and won the Honorary Mention Prize for his orchestral score of the animation *Dans Les Bois*. At the award ceremony, he was highly praised by the President of the jury, the Oscar-winning composer Stephen Warbeck.

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During his time in the UK, Yin has been an enthusiastic and professional collaborator with directors from Central Saint Martins, London Film School and the Royal College of Arts, composing music for their films which have been screened at various events in London. His experimental score was featured in the animated musical short *Flower Duet* dir. Haemin Ko from CSM, which was nominated for the Bechstein Classic Animation Award, 2020.

While at College, Yin seized every opportunity to learn from leading composers. His principal study professors were Howard Davidson (who has composed for documentaries on BBC and PBS) and Enrica Sciandrone (a multi-award-winning composer for screen and concert) who inspired him and contributed to his confidence as a screen composer. Yin attended masterclasses given by world-renowned film composers, including Don Davis (*The Matrix*), Harry Gregson-Williams (*The Martian* and *Shrek*) and Matt Dunkley (*Inception*). He utilised the opportunities offered to him to participate in one-to-one lessons and meetings with leading industry figures based in the UK including George Fenton (*Planet Earth*), Maurizio Malagnini (*Call the Midwife*) and Gary Yershon (Oscar-nominated *Mr Turner*). They all gave positive feedback and Yin has established ongoing relationships with them. Under his professors' guidance, Yin has recorded his pieces using the RCM Studios, Concert Hall and Air-Edel Studios with talented London-based musicians

Currently, Yin has just finished the scores for two online feature films *The Last Judgement* and *Shura Bride* commissioned by director Raymond Yip from Hong Kong. He has started a new commission for the Broadway director Craig Lowy to score the feature-length documentary *Our Saigon*, a project he was referred for by Dimitri Scarlato, the area leader of Yin's course. Yin has also once again been commissioned by the RCM Oriental Culture Society to compose new pieces for the upcoming RCM Chinese New Year Celebration Concert 2021. His work will also be featured in the screening of the animated musical short *Flower Duet* on 10 May 2021 as part of the 27th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film, Germany.

The Global Talent visa will allow Yin to flourish further with his talent and artistry allied with his generous personality, which will offer so much towards the UK's creative arts culture. It is my professional view that Yin's achievements, accolades and professional experiences speak for themselves and prove that he is an excellent candidate for the visa which will ensure his musical career will continue to develop from strength to strength. If he were to leave the UK at this time his musical development would undoubtedly suffer.

I firmly believe that allowing Yin to stay in the UK will enrich the artistic fabric of this country. I fully support and endorse his application and wish Yin to stay in the UK's artistic community as possessing exceptional promise in this field. If you have any further questions, please contact me at colin.lawson@rcm.ac.uk or 020 7591 4363. I do hope you can look upon his application favourably.

Yours faithfully



Professor Colin Lawson CBE FRCM
Director

Colin Lawson is Director of the Royal College of Music. He has an international profile as a period clarinettist and has played principal clarinet in most of Britain's leading period orchestras, notably The Hanover Band, The English Concert and the London Classical Players, with whom he has recorded extensively and toured worldwide. Described as 'a brilliant, absolutely world-class player' (Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung) and 'the doyen of period clarinettists' (BBC Music Magazine), he has appeared as soloist in many international venues, including London's major concert halls and New York's Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. His discography comprises concertos by Fasch, Hook, Mahon, Mozart, Spohr, Telemann, Vivaldi and Weber, as well as a considerable variety of chamber music. His recording of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with members of The Revolutionary Drawing Room reached the top 20 in the Classical Charts during 2012. Due for release this year is a recording of Mozart's Divertimenti, Adagios and Nocturnes, in collaboration with students and colleagues from the Royal College of Music.

Colin has published widely on historical performance practice and the history of the clarinet, especially for Cambridge University Press. He is editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Clarinet* and author of *Cambridge Handbooks to Mozart's Clarinet Concerto* and *Brahms's Clarinet Quintet*. He is co-editor of a series of *Cambridge Handbooks to the Historical Performance of Music*, for which he co-authored an introductory volume and written a book on the early clarinet. He is also editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Orchestra* (2003) and co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Musical Performance* (2012).

Colin holds an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Sheffield. He was appointed a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016 for services to music and music education.

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