

HUW WILLIAM CHESTON

✉ hwc31@cam.ac.uk

🌐 <https://www.github.com/huwcheston>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Music Data Science

expected September, 2024

Centre for Music & Science, University of Cambridge, UK

Thesis: New Methods in Computational Modeling of Musical Improvisation

Supervisors: Peter Harrison & Ian Cross

Applied techniques from machine learning and data science to analyzing audio recordings

MSt., Music, *Distinction*

October, 2020

Linacre College, University of Oxford, UK

Dissertation: Making Music Alone: Time, Temporality, and Expression in Unaccompanied Jazz Improvisation

Supervisor: Eric Clarke

Final mark of 85%, *graduated with the highest mark in the year*

BA., Music, *First Class*

June, 2019

Christ Church, University of Oxford, UK

Final mark of 76%, *graduated with the highest mark in the year*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming

- Python 🐍 (NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly, Scikit-learn, SciPy, Statsmodels, OpenCV, Jinja, Librosa)
- JavaScript (jQuery, DataTable, Plotly)
- R (ggplot2, lme4, tidyverse)
- Misc.: **git**, L^AT_EX, Jupyter, Colab, PyCharm, RStudio, Docker, DataSpell, Stata, HTML, CSS

Statistics

- Working with large data sets
- Working with time-series data
- Data wrangling and cleaning
- Data visualisation, including interactive plots

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Travel Award (£ 200) International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition Travel Grant to present a paper at <i>ICMPC17</i> , Tokyo, Japan	August, 2023
Small Research Grant (£ 500) Royal Musical Association Travel Grant to present a paper at <i>ICMPC17</i>	August, 2023
Travel Grant (£ 1500) Music & Letters Trust Travel Grant to present a paper at <i>ICMPC17</i>	August, 2023
Conference Paper Presentation Award (£ 500) Cambridge Digital Humanities Travel Grant to present a paper at <i>Conference on Interdisciplinary Musicology</i> , Edinburgh, UK	August, 2022
Project Incubation Award (£ 2000) Cambridge Digital Humanities Awarded for continual development and testing of <i>Audio-Visual Manipulator</i> software for studying musical performances in experiments [Project page]	May, 2022
Vice-Chancellor's Award (£ 75,000) Cambridge Trust Full scholarship (fees & stipend) for Ph.D Music	September, 2021
Lewis Research Scholarship in the Humanities Robinson College, University of Cambridge Joint award with above	September, 2021
Musicology Prize (£ 100) Faculty of Music, University of Oxford Awarded for highest mark in the 2020 MSt. Musicology cohort	October, 2020
Louis Curran Graduate Scholarship (£ 25,000) Linacre College, University of Oxford Full scholarship (fees & stipend) for MSt. Musicology	August, 2019
Gibbs Prize in Music (£ 500) Faculty of Music, University of Oxford Awarded for highest mark in the 2019 BA. Music cohort	June, 2019
Clifford Smith Prize (£ 130) Christ Church, University of Oxford Awarded on basis of continued academic excellence	June, 2019
Academic Scholarship (£ 300 x2)	September, 2018; September, 2017

Christ Church, University of Oxford

Collections Prize (£ 50 x2)

Christ Church, University of Oxford

Awarded for performance in formative examinations

September, 2018; September, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. M. C. (In press). Trade-offs in Coordination Strategies for Duet Jazz Performances Subject to Network Delay and Jitter. *Music Perception*.

Preprints

Cheston, H., Schlichting, J. S., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. M. C. (2024). Rhythmic qualities of jazz improvisation predict performer identity and style in source-separated audio recordings *PsyArXiv*. [<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/txy2f>]

Cheston, H., Schlichting, J. S., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. M. C. (2024). Cambridge jazz trio database: automated timing annotation of jazz piano trio recordings processed using audio source separation *PsyArXiv*. [<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jyqp3>]

Conference Proceedings

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. (2023). An automated pipeline for characterizing timing in jazz trios. Paper presented at the DMRN+18: Digital Music Research Network Workshop, Queen Mary University of London, UK. [[Proceedings](#)]

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. (2023). Modelling coordination strategies in improvised musical performances by skilled jazz groups. Paper presented at the 16th International Conference of Students of Systematic Musicology (SysMus23), Sheffield University, UK. [[Proceedings](#)]

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. (2023). Coordination strategies in networked jazz performances. Paper presented at the 17th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC), Nihon University, Tokyo, Japan. [[Proceedings](#)]

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. (2022). The effects of variable latency timings and jitter on networked musical performances. Poster presented at the 15th International Conference of Students of Systematic Musicology (SysMus22), University of Ghent, Belgium. [[Proceedings](#)]

Cheston, H., Cross, I., & Harrison, P. (2022). Measuring the effects of variable latency timings on networked jazz performances. Poster presented at the SEMPRES 50th Anniversary Conference, Senate House, University of London, UK. [[Proceedings](#)]

Cheston, H. (2022). “Turning the beat around”: Time, temporality, and participation in the jazz solo break. Paper presented at the 13th Conference on Interdisciplinary Musicology: ‘Participation’, University of Edinburgh, UK. [\[Proceedings\]](#)

Other Publications

Cheston, H. (2022) Conference Review: Interdisciplinary Musicology 2022: ‘Participation’. Royal Musical Association. [\[Conference review\]](#)

TEACHING

Guest Lecturer Winter 2021 –
Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge
Delivered guest lecture for Undergraduate level *Introduction to Music Psychology* course

Supervisor Spring 2022 –
Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge
Delivered supervisions at Undergraduate level on: *(i)* introduction to programming in Python and R; *(ii)* visualising and generating data in Python and R; *(iii)* writing research proposals; *(iv)* analysing musical performances empirically.

TRAINING

Social Sciences Research Methods Programme, University of Cambridge:

– Time Series Analysis	Spring, 2022
– Further Topics in Multivariate Analysis	Spring, 2022
– Doing Multivariate Analysis	Winter, 2021
– Basic Quantitative Analysis	Winter, 2021
– Foundations in Applied Statistics	Winter, 2021

EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist Intern, Spotify June 2024 –
Worked in close collaboration with members of the Audio Intelligence and Machine Learning teams to develop new approaches to audio and music classification.

Graduate Music Teaching Assistant September 2020 – June 2021
Kingswood School, Bath, UK

Interviewer Summer 2019
Oxford Tutors, Oxford, UK

Private Music Tutor Summer 2018
Remote, UK

Freelance Musician September 2016 – current

Professional work across the UK on Guitar, Bass Guitar. Clients include Blenheim Palace, United Grand Lodge of England, Oxford Symphony Orchestra, TRUCK Festival

Sound Technician

September 2016 – current

Sound production, mixing, mastering for a variety of projects in both live and studio settings, clients including ATMOSPHERE Opera Festival, Oxford Playhouse [\[Showreel link\]](#)

Administrator, WallpaperJazz [\[Website link\]](#)

June 2016 – current

Online blog hosting transcriptions of jazz improvisations, currently averaging 1000+ worldwide views monthly across 75 countries.

REFERENCES

Available on request