

# Oliver Thurley

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I am changing career following a number of years working as an academic lecturer in music technology.

I am passionate about programming and constantly expanding my skills through applied projects. I combine a creative approach with strong analytical thinking, and am experienced in research, communication, and problem-solving. I am a fast learner and thrive when collaborating to design and build innovative solutions.

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## Technical Skills

- **Languages:** JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, SQL, HTML, CSS;
- **Frameworks & Libraries:** React, Node.js, Express.js, p5.js;
- **Databases & APIs:** PostgreSQL, RESTful APIs, OpenAPI/Swagger;
- **Tools:** Git, GitHub, npm, neovim, VS Code, Markdown, LaTeX, AI, yaml, toml;
- **Testing & Deployment:** GitHub Actions (CI/CD), Docker, Unit Testing (mocha, jest), Render, Netlify, Supabase;
- **Other Skills:** Technical writing, research, agile practices, mentoring, public speaking and teaching.

I have contributed to the open-source project p5.js, a creative-coding JavaScript library by the Processing Foundation.

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## Professional Experience

### Lecturer, University of Leeds (2019 – present)

- Lectures and workshops on JavaScript, p5.js, and Max/MSP.
- Designed and led “Computational Art” module, introducing non-coders to JavaScript, creating algorithmic art, music, and poetry as well as other digital arts.
- Led design of 6 new modules and managed 12 other modules (2019–present).
- Programme leader of BSc Music, Multimedia and Electronics programme, co-taught with School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering.
- Worked as part of a team to develop a new Music Technology programme, which recruited >40% of our School’s undergraduate intake in 2024-25.
- Supervised over 20 undergraduate software-based student projects, including procedural systems, interactive installations, multi-channel audio diffusion systems, and music education apps.
- Each academic year I produce new technical documentation and teaching materials, including a successful YouTube-partnered channel teaching the programming language, Max/MSP.
- Supervisor and examiner to PhD students.
- My tutored students’ average grade is a high 2:1. (2023–25)

### Teaching Fellow, University of Leeds (2016 – 2019)

- Technical teaching across BA, MA Music Technology and BSc Electronic Engineering programmes.
  - Supported student development with structured mentoring, project feedback, tutorials and supervision.
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## Projects

### Grant Scribe (React, TypeScript, Express, OpenAI API)

A project to apply skills in React, Typescript, CI/CD, and the OpenAI API. This SPA generates tailored research proposals from user input. Built with React, Node / Express backend, and RESTful API calls. Deployed via Render. Demonstrates component-based architecture, async data fetching, error handling.

### clouddrift (Node.js, CLI Tool)

Developed skills in npm packaging by creating and publishing a CLI module that generates animated ASCII clouds on the user’s terminal using simplex noise. Demonstrates proficiency in package publishing, creative application of noise algorithms.

### **Pen Plotter Art (p5.js, Arduino)**

Interactive generative drawings using p5.js to design algorithmic visuals, and controlling a 3D-printed pen plotter. Applied skills in creative coding, SVG processing, hardware integration, and microcontroller programming.

### **Harmonic Synthesizer (p5.sound, JavaScript)**

Developed skills creating a browser-based synthesizer for demonstrating harmonic series relationships through real-time audio generation and UI controls. Used in educational settings for interactive music teaching.

### **Tempest (ZMK Firmware, Hardware)**

Designed and built a wireless 36-key split ergonomic keyboard running custom ZMK config (Zephyr). Learned about PCB layout, embedded firmware, and configuration.

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## **Education**

- **PhD** - Music - Fully funded by AHRC. Awarded without corrections and Board of Examiners Prize. University of Leeds, *2012–2016*
- **MA** - Computer Music & Music Technology (Distinction) - University of Leeds, *2010–2011*
- **BA(Hons)** - Music Production (First Class) - Leeds College of Music, *2007–2010*

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## **Certifications & Awards**

- GitHub Foundations certification - GitHub
- Full-Stack Engineer certification - Codecademy
- Kranichsteiner Musikpreis - Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Germany, 2018
- Artist Residency, Junge Akademie scholarship - Berlin Akademie der Kunst, Germany, 2022

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## **Contact**

Please get in touch via `o.thrly@gmail.com` and find me on GitHub or LinkedIn.

## **Keywords**

Software Developer, Full-Stack Developer, Entry-Level Programmer, Junior Developer, Web Development, React.js, Express.js, Node.js, JavaScript, Python, PostgreSQL, SQL, REST API, CI/CD, Agile, Frontend, Backend, Fullstack