

Breffni O'Byrne BA in Composition student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, September to December 2009



‘After studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London for three months I can honestly say that I would recommend it hugely to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge of music, not to mention composition. When I think about the amount of significant learning I acquired in such short a space of time, it’s brilliant to know that my tutors showed great interest in my chosen field and were always attentive to my developments, thus pushing me further and further.

I have strongly considered visiting this wonderful place to study once again with Julian Anderson in the future.

The GSMD also happens to be an excellent conservatoire, with some exceptional facilities and a good number of practise rooms. It’s also situated right at the heart of the Barbican Estate, which places it next to the famous Barbican Centre, an outstanding venue which I visited a number times and was even fortunate enough to sit in on the London Symphony Orchestra rehearsing Dutilleux’s L’Arbe des Songes with the solo violinist Leonidas Kavakos and Ravel’s Daphnis et Chloé both under the direction of conductor Valery Gergiev.

The opportunities to work with the numerous incredibly talented musicians at the GSMD also allowed the student’s compositions to be heard which an indispensable experience for young composers. I do believe that I have formed relationships that will hopefully last a great many years. The GSMD attracts an enormous amount of individuals from many different countries so the social experience was inspiring.

The GSMD offers every student the chance to evolve to a profound level. Its warm and welcoming environment would make anyone feel right at home. I have absolutely no hesitation recommending it as a place of study for any student of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.’