

# Elaine Agnew



**Elaine Agnew** is a composer & music facilitator. She is highly experienced at facilitating groups of all ages in collective music-making. Her music has featured at the BBC London Proms and has been performed in many world-class venues including Carnegie Hall and the Royal Albert Hall. Elaine was appointed as Lyric FM's first Composer-in-Residence and in 2017 was elected to Aosdána, Ireland's state-sponsored body of creative artists. Current commissions include a major choral works for the Belfast Philharmonic Society to celebrate their 150th anniversary and music for a video game in collaboration with the Austrian-based video game developer Causa Creations, Piano Biennale and Music for Galway.



## Podcast

### Reflection Questions

You may find some of the following reflection questions useful. The suggested questions and activities below are a sample of how this podcast, featuring **Elaine Agnew**, can be incorporated into your classroom practice. In adapting this resource for your students, you should consider the age and stage of the students within your school context.



#### Before Listening

- Elaine Agnew is a composer and music facilitator. What do you think is involved in this work?
- Think about a favourite hobby or pastime that you enjoy. Note down the possible pathways that you might follow to make your hobby your future career.



#### As you Listen

- Elaine tells us: "When you're working with young people, your words can have such impact". Think about the positive impact that one good adult has had in your life and what it has meant to you.
- What do you think of Elaine's approach to facilitation through gesture? Do you think it is a good way to facilitate? Why/why not?
- Elaine talks about the importance of feedback in her development as a composer. What kind of feedback do you like to receive? What do you do with the feedback you receive?
- Elaine tells us that deadlines always help her to focus on her work. What helps you to focus?



#### After Listening

- The Key Skill of working with others is very important to Elaine. Collaborate with another student to put words and music together. This can be an original composition or you can take a piece of music and a piece of writing that already exists and create a new composition from that.
- Elaine is currently working on the soundtrack for a video game. Do some research on a musical soundtrack for a show that you watch or a game that you play. Find out who the composer and lyricist is (if applicable) and comment on what you enjoy about this composition.

Podcast available on Junior Cycle Talks podcast channel

