Dr Stephen Emmerson

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My name is Stephen Emmerson. I teach a range of courses here at the Conservatorium, but I suppose at my core, I am a pianist and I primarily work with western classical music. I certainly have played a lot of contemporary music and I love working with composers and new works. But like most classical musicians, I am primarily concerned with music from the past and I suppose what really excites me about this music is the way these artefacts from the past, musical scores, come to life afresh in our own time. So it's this dynamic relationship between the past, the way it has a dialogue with the present, with living and breathing human beings now, that really excites me most.

I suppose the way we understand, the way we play music, the way we hear it and the way it is meaningful to us, changes all the time and so it's this wonderful dynamic area between the past and the present, which seems to me a wonderful interesting place to reside as a musician. Most of my music making in fact is in chamber music and I suppose it's those interactions with other individuals that I most enjoy when I am making my music. So this sense in which, ‘in the moment’ one is bringing to life something from the past in conjunction with fellow musicians in the presence of an audience, that seems to me to be an experience like nothing else in life and that’s what I live for.