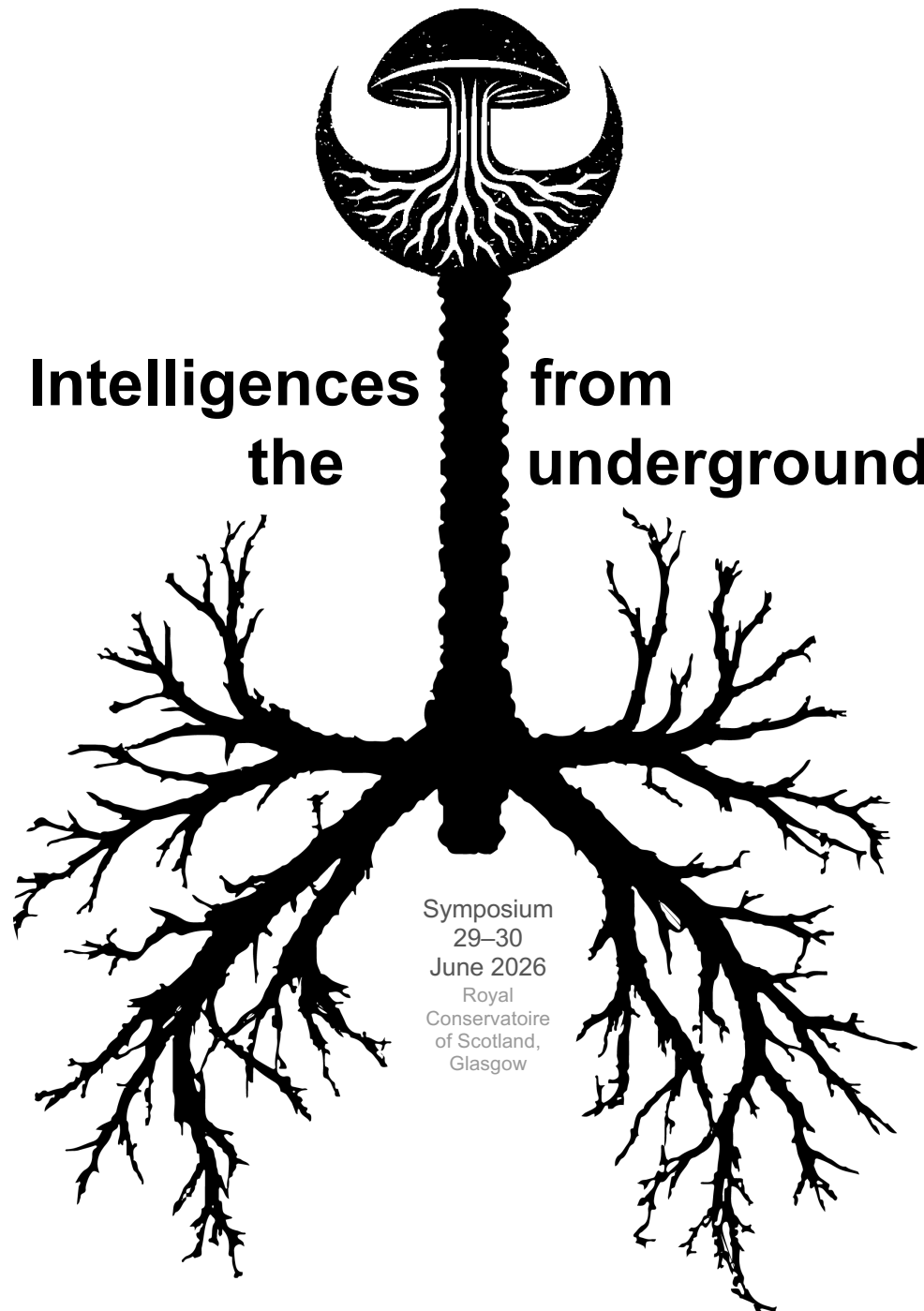




Intelligences from the underground

Symposium
29–30
June 2026
Royal
Conservatoire
of Scotland,
Glasgow

Practical Information

Head into the RCS at the ground level entrance (where you will encounter the client service desk) there will be signs from this point directing you to the room!

Arrival from 9:00am on Monday 29 June. Coffee, tea, and light snacks will be available on R5 (see map on next page!).

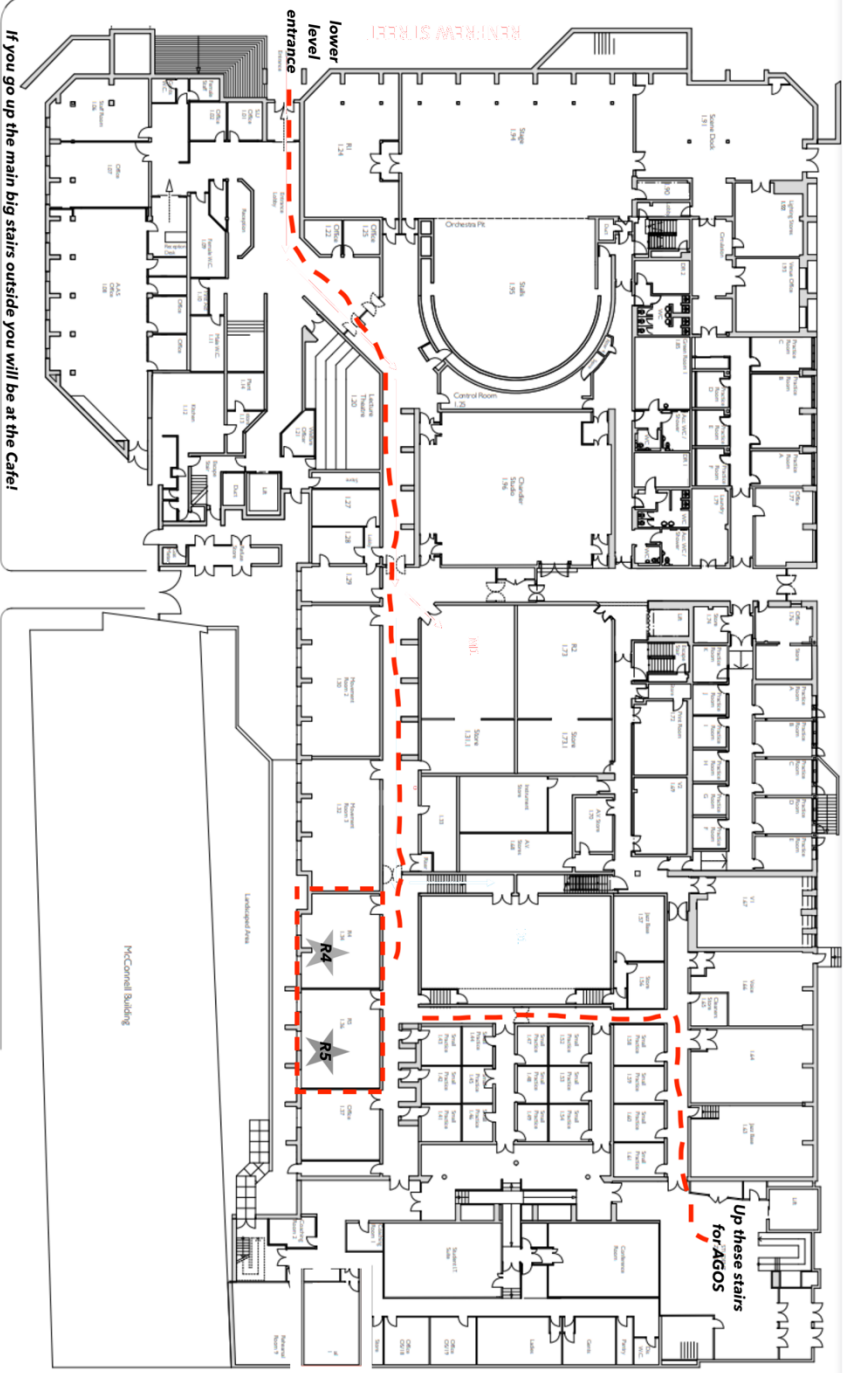
Power sockets are British standard Type G (13A / 230V).

Please bring your laptop if you plan to participate in the Vibe Coding Lab (Day 1, 10:00–13:00).

Room directions will be posted throughout the building.

Contact: m.sappho@rcs.ac.uk · u.macglone@rcs.ac.uk

RCS Level 1 Groundplan



Programme at a Glance

Time	Session	Room	Notes
Monday 29 June — Building and Performance			
9:00	Arrival & Coffee	R5	<i>coffee and tea here!</i>
9:30–10:00	Welcome & Opening Framing	R5	
10:00–13:00	Vibe Coding Lab — Dr Martin Parker	R5	<i>Bring laptop</i>
13:00–14:00	Lunch		<i>Not provided but please join us in the café upstairs!</i>
14:00–15:00	SYZYGY — Colin Frank, Raymond MacDonald, Yoonwoo Ha	R4	
15:00–16:00	Painting Music — Dr Kate Steenhauer	AGOS	
16:00–17:00	Creative Music AI — Dr Anna Xambó	AGOS	
19:30	Evening Gig	Old Hairdressers	<i>Tickets: Eventbrite</i>
Tuesday 30 June — Instruments, Community and Pedagogy			
9:00	Arrival & Coffee	R5	
9:30–11:00	Underground Intelligences Instrument Lab	AGOS	<i>Hands-on</i>
11:00–11:30	Techno on Canvas — Yoonwoo Ha	R4	
11:30–12:00	Artist Talk — Jonathan O'Hear	R4	
12:00–13:00	Chimère Communities — Dr Brice Catherin	R4	
13:00–14:00	Lunch		
14:00–15:30	Roundtable: Pedagogy	AGOS	
15:30–17:00	Roundtable: Future Directions	AGOS	
17:00	Symposium Concludes		
19:00	Dinner	TBC	

Monday 29 June — Building and Performance

9:30 – 10:00 · R5

Welcome & Opening Framing

10:00 – 13:00 · R5

Workshop: Vibe Coding Lab — Dr Martin Parker

A hands-on collaborative session exploring rapid instrument design and prototyping using creative coding, hardware, and AI tools. The lab remains open throughout the day as a space for ongoing experimentation.

Martin Parker is a composer, sound designer and laptop-based improviser. He works at the University of Edinburgh where he leads programmes in postgraduate sound design and composition. He is a research fellow with Bridging Responsible AI Divides (BRAID), exploring Sonic Identity in relation to ubiquitous machine-made sound and music. tinpark.com

14:00 – 15:00 · R4

Workshop: SYZYGY — Dr Colin Frank, Prof. Raymond MacDonald, Yoonwoo Ha

An introduction to the VR, mixed reality, and AI systems part of the SYZYGY project — a speculative ecosystem where participants become both microorganism and world-builder, shaping landscapes through sound, touch, and movement. Participants are invited to contribute material throughout the afternoon; compositions feed into the evening concert.

Colin Frank is a percussionist, composer, and sound artist whose work explores found objects, environmental noise and immersive technology. His compositions have been presented at hcmf//, CTM Berlin, Beast Feast, and Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion. Winner of the Hildegard Westerkamp Award. colinfranksounding.com

Raymond MacDonald is a saxophonist, composer and academic exploring the boundaries between improvisation and composition. He has worked internationally with Marilyn Crispell, Günter 'Baby' Sommer, David Byrne, Damo Suzuki, Nurse with Wound, Axel Dörner, George Lewis, and others. raymondmacdonald.co.uk

Yoonwoo Ha is a creative music technology researcher with backgrounds in Electronic Engineering, Creative Humanities, and Music Production. His work focuses on human–AI collaboration within creative workflows and visual music AI. yoonwooaha.com

15:00 – 16:00 · AGOS

Workshop: Painting Music — Dr Kate Steenhauer

A live demonstration of Painting Music — a system created with AI developers Dr Starkey and Jack Caven that uses human-inspired AI to translate live painted marks into music in real time.

Kate Steenhauer is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, and engineer working at the intersection of visual art, performance, technology, and AI. She holds an MSc from Delft University of Technology and a PhD in Coastal Engineering from the University of Aberdeen. katesteenhauer.com

16:00 – 17:00 · AGOS

Creative Music AI — Dr Anna Xambó

This talk presents Xamó's practice with live coding and sound sampling as a suitable approach for real-time creation and improvisation with personal and crowdsourced sounds. AI algorithms aid the process of searching, retrieving, and discovering new sounds and patterns, opening possibilities for unexpected interactions between humans, machines, code, data, and the audience.

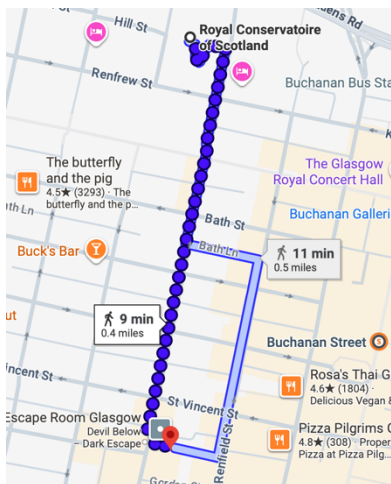
Anna Xambó is an experimental electronic music producer and researcher. Senior Lecturer in Sound and Music Computing at the Centre for Digital Music, Queen Mary University of London, and PI of the AHRC-funded project "Sensing the Forest" (2023–2026). annaxambo.me

19:30 · The Old Hairdressers

Evening Gig

An evening performance featuring instruments, systems, and collaborations developed during the day. Featuring the Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra and visiting artists. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

Evening Gig — Walking Route to The Old Hairdressers



Exit RCS via Renfrew Street and head south on Hope Street.

The Old Hairdressers is on Snt Vincent Lane...not the street! It is a small lane! Just across from 'stereo' bar

The Old Hairdressers is not an accessible venue.

The gig is upstairs, there are many stairs!

≈ 10 minutes on foot.

Tickets available here, or just come!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1987501319950?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 30 June — Instruments, Community and Pedagogy

9:30 – 11:00 · AGOS

Underground Intelligences Instrument Lab

Hands-on exploration of experimental instruments and performance systems developed by participants. An open space for curiosity, play, and conversation.

11:00 – 11:30 · R4

Techno on Canvas — Yoonwoo Ha

Techno on Canvas is a robotic performance system that transforms live electronic music into abstract oil paintings in real time. Using the Connected Nature framework, musical structures such as rhythm, timbre, and melody are translated into visual gestures, creating a material record of sound. Blurring the boundaries between instrument, artwork, and performance, the project explores how digital music can become tangible, permanent, and accessible across diverse audiences.

Yoonwoo Ha is a creative music technology researcher with backgrounds in Electronic Engineering, Creative Humanities, and Music Production. His work focuses on human–AI collaboration and visual music AI. yoonwoooha.com

11:30 – 12:00 · R4

Artist Talk — Jonathan O'Hear

On prediction, black magic, and the side effects of being made out of meat. And whether art, humanity, and everything that defines us might be glitches in a much older programme.

Jonathan O'Hear is a multidisciplinary artist whose work is often experiential and technological. He founded the AiiA festival (2021), co-founded association de Malfaiteurs (2022), and launched the DAI project. His work has been shown at the Musée Tinguely Basel, Villa Bernasconi Geneva, CCS Paris, and the Science Art Gallery Dublin. jonathan.ohear.com

12:00 – 13:00 · R4

Chimère Communities — Dr Brice Catherin

Chimère is an early multi-modal AI developed specifically for artistic practice and conceived from the outset as a non-Eurocentric system. Trained on data created with artists and partners in South Africa, Lesotho, India, and Pakistan, it approaches AI training as a relational and situated process. This session asks how an artistic AI might operate as a critical research partner without being subsumed by dominant technological or Eurocentric paradigms.

Brice Catherin is an artist and doctor in music composition (University of Hull), presently working at the University of Cork. He develops art-based participatory action research with non-artists from the Global Majority in Europe and Southern Africa. Affiliate artist of the UNESCO Chair on Refugee Integration through Education, Language and Arts at the University of Glasgow. akouphene.org

14:00 – 15:30 · AGOS

Roundtable: Pedagogy

An open discussion on improvisation, technology, and teaching creative practice. All participants are invited to contribute.

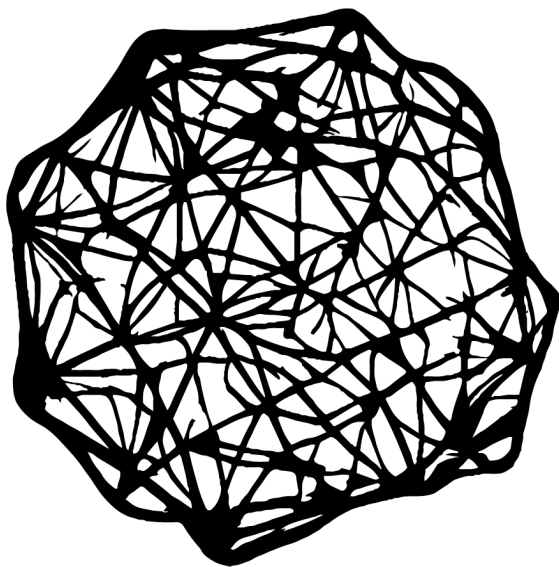
15:30 – 17:00 · AGOS

Roundtable: Future Directions

Open discussion on future collaborations, research directions, and artistic projects emerging from the symposium.

Participants

Anna Xambó · Brice Catherin · Colin Frank · Jonathan O'Hear · Kate Steenhauer · Maria Guerra Sappho · Martin Parker · Pierre Alexandre Tremblay · Raymond MacDonald · Una MacGlone · Yoonwoo Ha



Intelligences from the Underground

A two-day symposium on art, research, AI, improvisation, and community-centred technology.

Convened by **Dr Maria Sappho, Dr Una MacGlone**
and **Prof. Pierre Alexandre Tremblay**

Funded by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Athenaeum Award.

undergroundintelligences.com

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