

Kojo Minta Memorial Fund

During my final year as a composition student, I received the Kojo Minta Travel & Research Award to undertake travel to Italy and Switzerland in support of the premiere of my new composition *Hanami Interlude* for electric guitar, piano and electronics. Italian Duo Santorsa Saccone, composed by Chiara Saccone (piano) and Ruben Mattia Santorsa (guitar), commissioned me a new work for their project "Exploration of New Sounds" scheduled to be performed in Switzerland (Theatre Pavillon, Luzern; Druckereihalle, Basel; Literaturcafé, Biel).

The new work I composed, *Hanami Interlude*, springs from the Japanese tradition of flower gazing, or *hanami*, and evokes moments of fleeting beauty and stillness in the midst of turmoil, inspired by the haiku by Kobayashi Issa: In this world / We walk on the roof of hell / Gazing at flowers.

I am truly grateful for the financial assistance provided by the Kojo Minta Travel Award, which helped me cover all the travel expenses necessary to rehearse my work in Italy with the duo as often as needed, and to attend the performance in Switzerland, obtaining a live recording which, together with the original score, will be part of the composition portfolio in support of my DPhil in Music. The Kojo Minta Travel Award was an essential help in making this collaboration possible and in supporting me to achieve the best musical results in this project.



Giulia Monducci