

MIKE ROBERTS

composer – sound artist – producer – professor

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Essex Cultural Diversity Project

21st November 2019

Dear Jo,

Your Artist Commission for Coggeshall is of great interest to me as the project aims converge closely with my practice as a sound artist and musician engaged heavily in the community.

My artistic practice involves sound, music and multi-disciplinary artforms in collaboration with, *and for*, local communities to inspire wonder, learning and engagement with whatever the main themes of the project are. In the past 5 years I have worked alongside children and teenagers with special needs, SLD and PMLD; refugee and migrant communities; cross-generational choir groups; schools, special schools and home education groups; families and geographically defined communities; arts and heritage organisations – including the National Trust.

My interest in this particular commission revolves around the historical use of Grange Barn as a combined place of industry (wool) and community gathering, and the musical connection between Paycocke's House and the composer Gustav Holst. In responding to these themes my intention would be to once again use Grange Barn as a place of creative industry and gathering using musical activity and creation as a focus for culturally diverse collaboration.

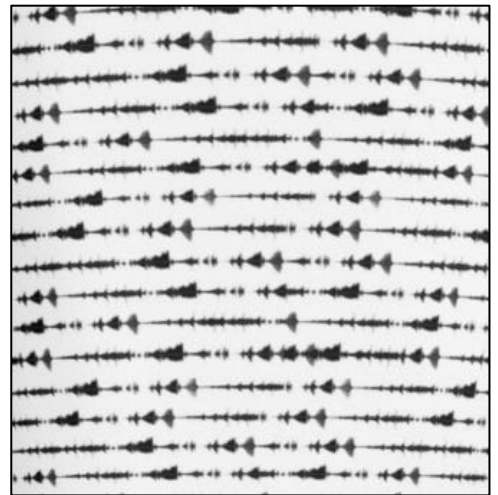
Knitted Community

Music as an effective conduit for bringing diverse communities together is well proven – both in terms of collaborative creation and shared result (recorded, performed). Communities made up of diverse backgrounds, generations, and socio-economics can find common ground through music, particularly when activity takes an accessible form (not restricted to those who can play a musical instrument).

My plan would be to engage several different sections of the local community – from schools to care homes – in accessible music sessions to create patterns that can be captured both in wool (through knitted rhythmic patterns) and sound. Helping people to 'compose' is one of my specialist methods of engaging diverse communities.

The knitted patterns (produced by physical or mechanical means depending on the experience of participants) would be displayed in 'sound frames' that acoustically project the rhythmic sound of the pattern. The resultant collection of rhythmic woollen pictures would be curated in such a way that they all harmonise with each other – creating a unique sonic and visual installation in Grange Barn that would continue to both represent the diverse gathering of people that created them and attract new gatherings of people to experience the collection.

Knitted Waveforms in Wool



There is, of course, a lot more detail involved in executing this plan – but I hope this overview is of interest enough for me to have the opportunity of explaining the concept and realisation further at interview.

The rest of this document contains the other details requested in your commission brief.

Mike Roberts

Five Examples of Recent Work

1 Sensory Seas (2019)



Multi-Sensory: Acrylic Print; Light Projection;
Sonic Vibration; Acoustic Sound.
Collaborating with Mapledown School
for Pupils with Special Needs
and Artsdept

2 Revolution 360 (2017)



25 Retro-fitted Gramophones
Collaborating with 25 students and
The Barbican Centre

3 – Harmony of Difference (2018)



20 'Identity Prints' on Acoustically Transparent
Fabric; 40 channel surround sound.
Collaborating with Mapledown School for Pupils
with Special Needs and Artsdept

4 – Sonic Light Tunnel (2018)



48 channel sound system delivering sonic
soundscapes via 24 speakers and 24 contact
transducers. Collaborating with 30 students,
Guildhall Live Events and Waddesdon Manor

5 – News from Nowhere (2008-2016)



Community Choral Symphony for Choirs, 12
ensembles and narrator.
Collaborating with the William Morris Gallery

ALL - Video Showreel

For a 3 minute video showreel of the 5 projects
highlighted on this page, please visit this link:
<https://www.soundingofsilence.com/coggeshall>



Budget and Timeline

Budget Outline:

Description	Funding	Expenditure
Commission Fee	£12,000.00	
In Kind Support (materials) *1	£2,000.00	
Additional Partner **2	£3,000.00	
Preparation and Planning Time (artist)		£1,500.00
Delivery of Workshops (artist & assistants)		£6,000.00
Build Materials		£3,500.00
Build Time (artist)		£5,000.00
Travel Expenses		£1,000.00
TOTALS	£17,000.00	£17,000.00

* Materials, instruments, technology to deliver effective and multi-faceted workshops.

** There is the potential to partner with students of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in the delivery of workshops and construction. Such involvement would add in-kind value and bring a contribution to travel and build expenses.

Timeline:

Date	Activity
Dec-19	Field trips for planning purposes Planning Meetings with project team and potential partners Initial research into physical build
Jan-20	Confirmation of partners (schools, community groups etc.) Prototype of 'Sonic Wool Frames' produced Launch of workshops
Feb-20	Continuation of workshops Special workshops during Half Term Initial knit of woollen patterns
Mar-20	Final Workshops for build Build of Sonic Wool Picture Installation Build
April - on	Installation in Grange Barn - medium term (to be discussed)

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[for audio examples: www.soundingofsilence.com • www.icmus.co.uk]

Qualifications / Awards – MA SFHE

BA (Hons) Music, University of York

MA Theology Sheffield University

Best Music Based Radio Program, CBC Awards

Honorary Diploma in Songwriting, The World Music Foundation

Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, HEA

Establishment Roles

Professor of Electronic Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama (1994-ongoing)

Artistic Director, Inspire Community Music C.I.C (established 2015)

Most Recent Freelance Activity - *chronological in reverse order*

Tower Bridge 125 Underscore: Music Director and Producer for Bascules Soundtrack (2019)

Artsdepot, 'Sensory Seas': Artist and facilitator working alongside pupils with SLD and PMLD (2019)

Musicity & Culture Mile: Lead artists for "Eternal Descent" based at the Smithfield Rotunda (2019)

Illuminated River: Producer of pieces accompany the Illuminated River project with Leo Villareal (2019)

Beasts of London: Lead composer and musical director for exhibition at the Museum of London (2019)

Mapledown School, 'Sensory Sound Trays': Artist working alongside pupils with SLD and PMLD (2018/19)

Waddesdon Manor: Lead composer and sound artist for the light tunnel sonic art installation (Christmas 2018)

Together Productions: Lead composer & workshop leader for "Sembo!" - Refugee Week 2018 finale song. (2018)

Artsdepot, 'Harmony of Difference': Artist working alongside pupils with SLD and PMLD (2018)

Waddesdon Imaginarium: Lead composer for "Waddesdon Imaginarium" video mapping (2017)

Glastonbury Festival & Barbican Film: Musical Director for "The Adventures of Prince Achmed" (2017)

Black Cat 107 FM: Composer and Producer for station ID and jingles package (2017)

Barbican Arts Centre: Lead Sound Artist for "Revolution 360" - gramophone Installation on lakeside

3FF, 'Singing Our Lives': Composer for collaborative songwriting project with migrant communities in Camden

Myro's Adventures: Composer and Music Producer - children's television series (52 x 11)

Barbican Centre, 'Numina': Lead sound artist for soundtrack to accompany Zarah Hussain's projection (2016)

The William Morris Gallery: Production of double CD product for The William Morris Gallery (2014/15)

Bedford Creative Arts: Commission for new experimental suite for Choir (premier due in December 2013)

Zappy Music Ltd: Music for series of 8 iPad/iPhone music apps (2013)

Barbican Arts Centre: Collaborative Composition 'Syn-the-sis' for Philip Glass Weekend 2012)

Barbican Film: Musical Director for 'Landmarks of Silent Animation' presentations (2009-2016)

BBC Symphony Orchestra: Soundscape Installation for Jonathan Harvey Total Immersion at Barbican (2012)

Myro's Adventures Ltd: Sound design and production of music for 6 Audio Books and 6 iPad/iPhone apps (2012)

Myro's Adventures Ltd: Composed and produced 10 song CD for children's book series (2010)

East Kent Wider Opportunities Partnership: Workshops culminating in 5 piece suite of instrumentals (2010)

Starshine Music: Arranging and producing backing tracks (2010-2013)

Rhodes Arts Theatre: Musical Director, arranger & music producer for 'Aladdin' pantomime (2009/10)

Alderton Junior School: Workshops culminating in collaborative composition of 'School Song' (2009)

Brooke Lapping: Incidental music for a series of 4 documentary shorts for Social Care TV (2009)

Key101 FM: Composed and produced music for a series of radio adverts (2009)

Waltham Forest Music Service: 'Lead Composer' on the collaborative "Fellowship Symphony" (2008)

Hackney Music Development Trust: Music Technology composition project (2008)

Three River's Choir Festival: Collaborative 'soundscape' project (2008)

The Wigmore Hall and Stour Valley Arts: Collaborative composition project with 2 GCSE groups (2007)

Composer / Producer – other highlights

Jim Henson Organisation – Children’s Television Series “The Ghost of Faffner Hall”
Myro’s Adventures – Children’s Television Series (52 x 11)
BBC Television & Radio: SOP, BBC1 (2003/04), ‘Soundworlds’, BBC World Service (2004),
Pace Productions – **British Rail** TV adverts
SA Films: Composed and produced music for a historical documentaries (2009 & 2012)
Warner Classic – composer and producer for a series of compilation CDs (1998-2001)
Universal Music – 5 albums of library music
CNN – News Themes • **SKY** – news and nature themes
Oxford University: “Birds of the Air” for Oboe & Electronics – ‘The Composer Speaks’ series (1999)
SPA Films – ‘Love Actually’ underscore (2003)
North Star Music: CD release - “Eternal Forest”(1996)
North Star Music: CD release - “Still Time”(1999)
BBC John Cage Festival at the Barbican: “Cyberscape” (premier 2004, re-performance 2006)
Telemagination – commissioned work on ‘**Animals of Farthing Wood**’ footage
Library Service Talking Books – Robina Beckles-Wilson’s children’s stories
North Star Music & KTEL: CD release - “Precious Moments”, (2002) – KTEL’s ‘baby love’ series

Educator - chronological in reverse order

Hampton Makes Music (ICMUS), concept, design and delivery of community music making project
Workshop Leader (freelance), Mapledown School for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Autism (ASC) and those with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) (2018, 2019)
Professor & Head of Electronic Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama (2005 – ongoing)
Examiner and Moderator, London Examinations, A’Level Music Technology (1995-1998)
Professor of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama (1994 - 2005)
Course Director (full time), BTEC ND in Music Performance, Chichester College of Arts (1992-1994)
Piano Teacher, Berkshire School of Pop Music (1991-1992)
Music Workshop Leader (part time), Clarendon School for Children with Special Needs, Richmond (1991-1992)
Class Music Teacher (full time), Christ’s School, Richmond, (1991)
Youth Worker (music, part time) Richmond upon Thames Youth service (1989-1992)

Musical Director / Performer – other highlights in reverse chronological order

Artistic Director & Founder, **Guildhall Session Orchestra** (2019 – ongoing)
Musical Director, **HMM Sing Circle**
Musical Director, **Barbican Silent Film Series** (2010 – ongoing)
Artistic and Musical Director, **The Still Time Band** (1999-2010)
Musical Director, **Aladdin**, (Rhodes Theatre, 2009)
Additional Orchestrations for **John Cage’s “Ocean”** with Andrew Calver (2007)
Director “John Cage Electronic Music Festival”, GSMD - part of **BBC Cage Festival** (2004)
Pianist, The **I.H.S World Orchestra** (2000-2004)
Musical Director, **CCC West London Gospel Choir** (2000-2004)
Musical Director, **Bedside Manners Theatre Company** (1989-1991)
Pianist, **London Contemporary Dance Theatre** (Education Unit, York 1989)
Musical Director, **York Lively Arts Theatre** (1989)
Pianist, **Toft’s Nightclub, York** (1988-1989)
Pianist, **Bettys Café Tearooms, York** (1986-1989)

References

References upon request