

AUDIBLE FORCES

Produced by | **OCM**

SARU
Sonic Art Research Unit

www.audibleforces.blogspot.co.uk



main image: Phantom Field by Mark Anderson, image credit: Jony Easterby

AUDIBLE FORCES is a landscape of wind-driven sound installations. These intriguing kinetic, sonic creations produce other-worldly sounds as nature's unseen force breathes life into them.

This captivating collection is inspired by sound artist Max Eastley's explorations into Aeolian (wind driven) instruments, from their mythology and curious history, to contemporary explorations of them.

Seven of the UK's finest sound artists have each created their own instruments that harness the wind - Max Eastley, Mark Anderson, Jony Easterby, Kathy Hinde, Dan Fox, Nathaniel Mann and Mike Blow. Their instruments form a unified experience made up of an ever changing sound world that captures the imagination.

"truly otherworldly" - Songlines

"Completely beautiful" - Maria Bota, Artistic Director, Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival

"Uplifting – astonishing – inspiring..."

"Fascinating and wholly wonderful..."

"Inventive and beautiful" - audiences

Around 23,000 people saw Audible Forces during its tour to seven UK festivals over 2013 summer.

"All the artists are present and available for quizzing, and the event becomes sociable, more like a craft fair than a sculpture show" - Wire magazine

INSTALLATIONS

The artists accompany their installations, offering audiences the chance to discover more about aeolian instruments, making the show accessible for all. Where possible they create improvised aeolian harps on site. Several of the installations are tuned and "played" by the artists in response to the wind.



Arpeggi by Mike Blow

"sci-fi overtones...it's an image of surveillance overkill in a posh English garden."

Wire magazine

The Arpeggi are wind-driven kinetic sculptures, each fitted with three solar-powered sound oscillators. The form, based on the anemometers commonly found in weather stations, catches wind from any direction and causes the sculptures to revolve, creating shifting sound patterns as they spin at different speeds. Walk between the Arpeggi for the best effect.

evolutionaryart.co.uk



credit: Jony Easterby

Left: Birdhouse Flock by Jony Easterby

Each turn of the feather mechanism triggers a snap shot of an 8 second sound sample, a recording of two birdsongs in decline. A nightingale can deliver as many as 150 notes a second. In Kent, Medway council plan to build 5,000 houses on the UK's largest concentrations of Nightingales. Skylarks: 75% loss in 20 years. Nightingales: 91% loss in 40 years.

Right: Stress and stone by Jony Easterby

"impressive roaring and humming" Wire magazine

Delicate poles bent into arcs by hanging river stones create serene harmonics and percussive flickerings as the wind blows through "Stress and Stone". Two ten meter high fibre glass poles are put under tension by long strings hanging from the tip of the poles with rounded river stones attached at the end. The pitch of the string varies with the weight of the stone. As the wind blows across the strings, harmonics are created and amplified.

www.jonyeasterby.co.uk



credit: Jony Easterby

credit: Kathy Hinde



Left: Aeolian Harp and Aeolian Percussion by Max Eastley

"like senior partners – nothing left to prove, they are keeping an eye on the antics of newcomers...One uses stretched triangles of latex to generate an ominous rattle, the other is a sleek, curving aerial and emits periodic shrieks of bad temper." Wire magazine

Max Eastley's towering structures are a variation on the classic Aeolian Harp, which was an important influence on Romantic writers and connoisseurs. Max's Aeolian Harp takes the form of a set of bow shaped instruments and his Aeolian Percussion uses stretched latex to form triangular instruments. Both reaching high above the ground to transmit the wind from above our heads, they create a haunting voice for the wind. Amplification designed by Dave Hunt.

maxeastley.co.uk

Right: Howling Wire by Dan Fox

"a focal point with its timpani drums and retro lime green speaker cabinets... his piece is a puzzle: how come the drums seem silent but the speakers are howling? The answer lies in the virtually invisible strings connecting the mast and drums." Wire magazine

Dan Fox's "Howling Wire" is a twelve metre high electro-acoustic wind harp. It is made from recycled military and orchestral hardware. Nylon strings are stretched from the top of a pneumatic mast to the timpani drums to create this giant harp. With weathervane whistlers and elemental sirens, the wind blows through the strings to create its howling sounds.

www.danfox.net



credit: Dan Fox



credit: Kathy Hinde

Left: Sonic Reed Beds by Kathy Hinde

"Her Sonic Reed Beds is beautifully simple, the colliding pebbles conjuring a gentle music." Wire magazine

Kathy Hinde's "Sonic Reed Beds" were inspired by the movement of reeds in the wind. This ensemble of sound sculptures re-imagines the natural reed using steel rods topped with metal or stone. As they move in the breeze, the tops collide creating random compositions of varying densities, from the quiet, gentle collisions of pebbles to overlapping chimes of metal domes. Reed Bed Bases made by Will Datson and Paul Sandimere.

kathyhinde.co.uk

Right: Pigeon Whistles by Nathaniel Mann with Peter Petravicius

"an extraordinary experience" Folk Radio

The project Pigeon Whistles takes inspiration from centuries old traditions from both Indonesia and China. Sometimes called Pigeon Flutes, these small, lightweight whistles are carried upon the tail feathers of pigeons and borne through the air to create a beautiful haunting music. Peter Petravicius, a pigeon fancier for over 40 years, has collaborated closely with Nathaniel to breed and train a kit of Birmingham Rollers. The whistles in this project have been designed using recycled materials by Nathaniel Mann, and are directly inspired by the collection of Chinese pigeon whistles housed at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The birds fly once or twice a day depending on weather conditions.

nathanielmann.co.uk



credit: Nathaniel Mann



credit: Mike Blow

Right: Aeolian Soundmap by Kathy Hinde and Ed Holroyd

Kathy Hinde collaborated with Ed Holroyd to create an online soundmap to collate sound recordings that occur as a result of the wind. The map can be played back like a musical score and customised in different ways to generate many different Aeolian soundscapes. Play with the map at aeoliansoundmap.co.uk. You can upload your own Aeolian recordings using audioboo.

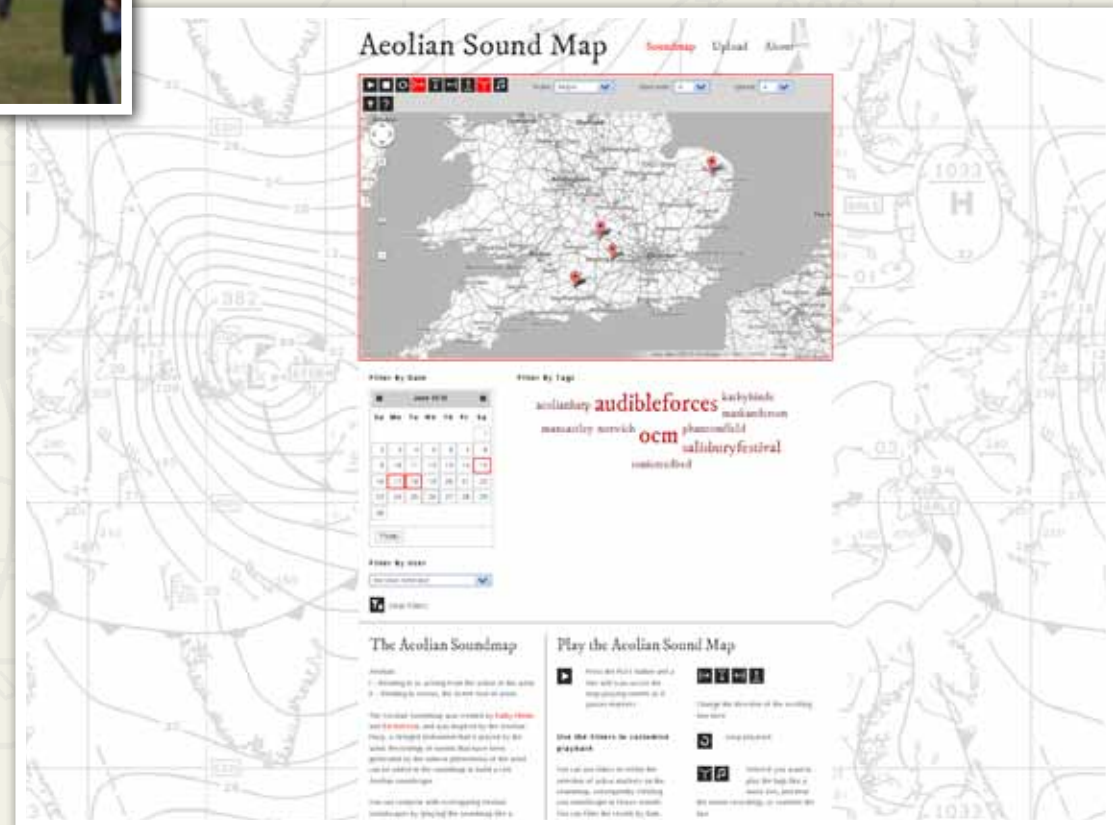
aeoliansoundmap.co.uk

Left: Phantom Field by Mark Anderson

"Fiercer and more immersive...a walk-through choir of electronic windmills, each whirring a different note. They're simultaneously funny and threatening." - Wire magazine

Twenty one Wind Synthesisers form the installation "Phantom Field", creating a swirling buffeting soundscape. The Wind Synthesisers use an Atari Punk Synthesiser (built and modified by Graham Calvert) and a modified computer fan to transform the slightest breath of wind into a soaring electronic choir controlled and conducted by the wind. During the day of each show the Wind Synthesisers will be adjusted and played by the artist to create swirling harmonics, and gale force sirens.

darkspark.org.uk powerplant.org.uk



PRODUCERS & PARTNERS

Produced by | **OCM** **OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY** **SARU**
Sonic Art Research Unit

Audible Forces is produced by OCM (www.ocmevents.org) and Oxford Brookes University Sonic Art Research Unit (www.sonicartresearch.co.uk)

Co-commissioned by Brighton Festival (brightonfestival.org) and Without Walls (www.withoutwalls.uk.com).

In 2013 Audible Forces appeared at: Brighton Festival, Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival, Greenwich

and Docklands International Festival, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Lakes Alive, and Quays Open Day (Greater Manchester's Waterfront).

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Arts & Humanities
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VIDEO & AUDIO



Video (with interviews)



Taster Video



Recording of Audible Forces
installations (by Dan Fox)

<http://bit.ly/1fAwMU>

PRESS

*"Their creations constitute a miniature theme park" –
Wire magazine*

*"the most unusual event I've ever been
to at an arts festival"*
BBC Wiltshire <http://bit.ly/1bM9tid>

*"Twelve specially-trained pigeons are swooping and
weaving through the air, creating a whistling, shifting
series of notes, that whip around the sky."*

BBC News Online
<http://bbc.in/1bX8DCj>

"...once seen never forgotten"
News and Star



Audio recordings were played by
Max Reinhardt on two episodes of
Late Junction, BBC Radio 3
<http://bbc.in/1gudv1B>
<http://bbc.in/1okQcWL>

Preview of Brighton Festival
on ITV Meridian
<http://itv.co/1cwjBM4>

Preview, Songlines
(see image below)

Preview, Folk Radio
<http://bit.ly/1cwjyj8>





ENQUIRIES

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