

Shaun Davies

Sound Artist / Curator / Performer

Manchester, UK

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www.shaundavies.info



BIOGRAPHY / INFORMATION

Shaun Davies is a sound artist, curator and performer based in Manchester, UK.

The primary focuses of his work are social considerations - social mobility, community, democracy, human interactions with performance/sound/space, inter-human relationships and phenomena, interpretation, and inclusivity – a desire to create works that encourage democratisation of participation, regardless of musical background, training, and experience. Shaun sets up environments which invite participants to deeply explore the sonic potential of an object or instrument, in some cases forming intimate relationships with objects previously unfamiliar, and sharing these relationships and findings in ensemble situations towards a collective ambition. His work also aims to champion and liberate the sonic potential of cheap, accessible objects as sound-making devices, both acoustically and electronically. His current work matches these ambitions with aspects of deep listening, environmental sound and “silence”, and the potential within for intimate, transcendental experiences.

His work has been performed by Ensemble Mimitabu (Sweden), House of Bedlam, RTE ConTempo Quartet (Ireland), Vonnegut Collective, Psappa, and various musicians/ensembles; has been featured by nonclassical (London), New Music Manchester Festival, and Kalv Festival (Sweden), RNCM, and broadcast by BBC Radio 3. His debut album is set for release in Summer 2020.

Shaun is Artistic Director of KINETIC (www.kineticmanchester.co.uk), a curating/commissioning body programming and championing modern experimental arts. KINETIC creates memorable audience experiences exploring location, environment-performance-human relationships, and a whole range of concepts, exploring the potential of performance-sound-location-human relationships, using various spaces across Manchester. KINETIC is funded by Arts Council England and recently presented their first festival - [I N T I M A T E] in Salford.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Debut album, featuring new studio recordings of *playthings*, *OPERATE!* and a brand new piece. New piece for *soundinitiative* ensemble (Paris), as part of an online KINETIC gig alongside pieces by Jessie Marino, Alexander Schubert and more.
- New ambisonics surround-sound piece exploring attitudes towards the NHS in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Series of livestream performances - SHOAL x KINETIC - *homely sound // outdoors/indoors // isolated meditation*.
- Research and development programme with Kelly Jayne Jones, exploring application of Wim Hof method to our artistic practices.

- Developing my piece *deeply doppling* into a durational piece / installation, potentially featuring audience participation, in collaboration with *soundinitiative*.

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

Royal Northern College of Music

Master in Music: Composition (Distinction)

Supervisors: Larry Goves and Gary Carpenter

Manchester

2017 – 2019

University of Salford

BA Hons in Musical Arts: Composition, Arranging & Performance (First Class)

Supervisors: Alan Williams and Robin Dewhurst

Salford, Greater Manchester

2014 – 2017

Trafford Music Base (Access To Music)

National Diploma Levels 2 & 3 in Professional Musicianship: Electric Guitar (Distinction)

Manchester

2006 – 2009

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

4th – 11th August 2019: Kalv Festival Composition Academy. Lessons, seminars, workshops, rehearsals, and performance of new work, with Klaus Lang, Malin Bång and Mimitabu ensemble. Chosen as 1 of 8 composers from 138 applicants.

4th - 13th July 2018: Composition Academy at Dublin Conservatory. Lessons, lectures, seminars, workshops, rehearsals, recording session of new work with Grainne Mulvey and RTE ConTempo Quartet.

GRANTS / AWARDS (extract)

2020: Grant from Arts Council England for Kinetic [I N T I M A T E] festival.

2019: Grant from Arts Council England for Kinetic SPACE/SENSE mini-series with Vonnegut Collective.

2018: Grant from Ralph Vaughn Williams Trust towards Postgraduate tuition fees.

2018: Grant from Headley Trust towards Postgraduate tuition fees.

2018: Grant from Arts Council England for Kinetic #4 @ LEAF.

2017: Chosen to participate as composer for Psappha Ensemble's 'Composing For' development scheme.

WORKS (extract)

- *deeply doppling* (2019) for 3-6 laptop operators and an equal amount of wireless speaker operators (30' / 15')
- *playthings* (2019) for 12 or more toy instruments (29'45")
- *OPERATE!* (2019) for any 4 instruments/objects and playback (12')
- *blow* (2018) for solo prepared and amplified contrabassoon (6'30")
- *directions please!* (2018) for string quartet (5'40")
- *STANDOFF* (2018) for any 3 woodwinds (4')
- *micro-stressors* (2018) for flute and bass clarinet (5'30")