

# WET SOUNDS



New UK Tour, 27 January – 26 March 2011

Bangor, Newcastle, Brighton, Oxford, Glasgow, Birmingham, London

## WET SOUNDS

The world's only underwater sound art gallery is setting off on the third tour of the UK in January 2011. **Wet Sounds** transforms public swimming pools into listening galleries in which the public can experience a range of live performances, music, and specially commissioned and selected sound art pieces, while swimming or floating in the water, with ears submerged, and absorbed in sound. **Wet Sounds** is a deep listening experience. The swimming pools are divided in two: one sound system is used underwater, and another above, and lighting is specially designed for the events, transforming the pools and creating an immersive environment.

## REVERSE SOUND ART GALLERY AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

**Wet Sounds** brings a variety of audio experiences to a wide audience in a unique setting. The new tour will present both open access and special events. For the open events, which are accessible to the public at a price of regular pool admission, curator Joel Cahen has created *Reverse*, a sound art gallery of works by international artists. Cahen plays a live collage, mixing recorded environments, film soundtracks, sound fx, dialogue and sound textures to create a rich cinematic soundscape. Within this mix he will include works especially made for **Wet Sounds**, by artist including Jessica Rowland (UK), Liam Quinn (UK), Daniel Blinkhorn (AU), Julius Holtz (D), Riz Maslen (UK) and Philip Mantione (USA).

The concert-events will bring together a range of internationally renowned artists, including *Pierre Henry* (who contributed significantly to the development of *Musique Concrète* in the 1950s and has created a new work *Analogy* for the tour), *Mira Calix*, *Eric La Casa*, and *Nurse with Wound*.

## A HISTORY OF SOUND ART

Parallel to the swimming pool installations, **Wet Sounds** will present an eighty-minute audio composition which weaves through different sound works throughout the century with narratives and ideas from some of the prominent artists in the field. It is an insightful retrospective into the craft of sound and its development as an artistic practice, from Edison's first sound film in 1895 to today.

Composed and arranged by Dr J Milo Taylor and mixed by Joel Cahen, the work positions sound art practice in an informative and engaging listening session hosted by a number of contemporary art institutions in tour cities, including *Modern Art Oxford* and *Whitechapel Gallery*. A publication mapping the development of sound art over the last 100 years will accompany the presentation.



In the 2011 tour, **Wet Sounds** will come to:

Bangor (with *Bangor Sound City festival*), 27-28 January

Newcastle, 5-6 February

Oxford, 13 February

Glasgow (with *Glasgow Film Festival*), 19-20 February

Brighton (with *Brighton Science Festival*), 2 March

London, 26 February, 6 March

Birmingham (with *Fierce Festival*), 26 March

## MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT

For more information about the tour, sound samples and interviews, please email [wetsounds@newtoy.org](mailto:wetsounds@newtoy.org) and see [www.wetsounds.co.uk](http://www.wetsounds.co.uk), or call Joel Cahen on 07908374952.

Print images can be downloaded from <https://files.me.com/alancaizez/bvanec>.

## BANGOR

in collaboration with Bangor Sound City

**Thursday, 27 January 2011, 7-9pm**

Performances by *Joel Cahen, Chapparall Andrew Hodges, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*Bangor Pool*, Garth Rd, Bangor LL57 2SD

Prices as per regular pool admission, no booking required

**Friday, 28 January 2011, 8-10pm,**

Performances by *Nurse with Wound, Joel Cahen, Graham Bowers, Andy Lewis*

Underwater performances by *Dawns i Bawb and Megan Broadmeadow*

*Bangor Pool*, Garth Rd, Bangor LL57 2SD

Tickets: £10 / £7, 01248 382141, [www.pontio.co.uk](http://www.pontio.co.uk)

**Tuesday 25 – Friday 28 January 2011, 12.30-4-30pm**

*A History of Sound Art*

*Bangor Museum*, Ffordd Gwynedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1DT

Free

## NEWCASTLE

**Saturday, 5 February 2011, 2.30-4.30pm**

Performance by *Joel Cahen, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*City Pool*, Northumberland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8SE

Prices as per regular pool admission, no need to book

**Sunday, 6 February, 5.45-7.15pm and 8.30-10pm**

Performances by *Mira Calix vs Andrea Parker, Cheapmachines and Joel Cahen*.

*City Pool*, Northumberland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8SE

Tickets: £12/£10 [www.wetsounds.co.uk](http://www.wetsounds.co.uk)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 3pm – 6pm**

*A History of Sound Art*

*The Star and Shadow*, Stepney Bank

Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2NP

## OXFORD

**Sunday, 13 February 2011, 4.40-6pm**

Performance by *Joel Cahen, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*Temple Cowley Pool*, Temple Road Cowley, Oxford OX4 2EZ

Prices as per regular pool admission

**Saturday, 12 February 2011, 4.40-6pm**

*A History of Sound Art* – a talk by Joel Cahen, and listening session

*Modern Art Oxford*, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP

Free, booking recommended

## GLASGOW

in collaboration with Glasgow Film Festival

**Saturday, 19 February 2011, 2-4pm**

Performance by *Joel Cahen, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*Glasgow Club, North Woodside Pool*, 10 Braid Square, Glasgow G4 9YQ

Prices as per regular pool admission, no need to book

**Sunday, 20 February, 5-8pm**

Performances by *Eric La Casa, Adrian Moore and Joel Cahen*.

*Glasgow Club, North Woodside Pool*, 10 Braid Square, Glasgow G4 9YQ

Tickets: £12/£10 [www.wetsounds.co.uk](http://www.wetsounds.co.uk) and

[www.glasgowfilm.org](http://www.glasgowfilm.org)

## BRIGHTON

In collaboration with Brighton Science Festival

**Wednesday, 2 March, 8-10pm**

Performances by *Joel Cahen and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*King Alfred Pool*, Kingsway, Hove, BN3 2WW

Prices as per regular pool admission

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 6pm**

*A History of Sound Art*

*Phoenix Brighton*, 10–14 Waterloo Place, Brighton BN2 9NB

Free

## LONDON

**Saturday, 26 February, 6-8pm**

Performances by *Joel Cahen, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*York Hall*, 5-15 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ

Prices as per regular pool admission, no need to book

**Sunday, 6 March, 7.30pm – 10pm**

Performances by *Pierre Henry, Simon Whetham, Ryan Styles and Joel Cahen*

*York Hall*, 5-15 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ

Tickets: £27 /

And balcony tickets at reduced rate will be released soon

[www.wetsounds.co.uk](http://www.wetsounds.co.uk)

**Tuesday 1 – Sunday 6 March 2011, 11am-6pm**

*A History of Sound Art*

*Whitechapel Art Gallery*, The Reading Room, 77-82 Whitechapel

High Street, London E1 7QX

Free

## BIRMINGHAM

in collaboration with Fierce Festival

**Wednesday, 26 March 2011, 8-10pm**

Performance by *Joel Cahen, and Reverse*, the sound art gallery.

*Moseley Road Baths*, Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, B12 9AN

**Date and time tbc**

*A History of Sound Art* – a presentation by Joel Cahen, and listening session

*VIVID*, 140 Heath Mill Lane, Birmingham B9 4AR

Free

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Nurse With Wound (Steven Stapleton and Andrew Liles)** is a group formed in 1978, and has released over 40 full-length titles. Stapleton's fondness for dada, surrealism and absurdist humour are demonstrated in much of the group's work which retains a distinctive and recognizable aura, while drawing on a wide assortment of genres, including cabaret music, nursery rhymes, John Cage, or The Beach Boys.



**Graham Bowers** is a musician, composer and artist. His approach to musical composition developed out of his life-long fascination with 'associative listening' and evolved into a genre of music which he describes as 'Sound Theatre'.

**Dawns i Bawb** is an umbrella organisation for community dance in North West Wales which works with local people, amateur and professional dance practitioners to encourage dance in the area. In Bangor, Dawns i Bawb will create a special underwater dance performance.

**Andrew Lewis** is a composer, principally of electroacoustic music. He was one of the original members of BEAST (Birmingham Electroacoustic Sound Theatre). In 1993 he joined the staff in the School of Music at Bangor University, where is Professor, Head of Composition and Director of the Electroacoustic Music Studios. He also directs Electroacoustic WALES, which acts as a focus for the creation and dissemination of electroacoustic music in Wales and beyond.

**Chaparall Andrew Hodges** is a musician and sound artist, who maps, patterns and creates fantastic continuous sound textures. For Wet Sounds, he performs *Watercycles* – an improvised sound work, in which two musicians create an unfolding audio story of the transition from vapour to water and then ice.

**Cheapmachines (Philip Julian)** has been an active part of the experimental music underground since the late 1990's. His studio recordings and live performances have focused on the use of analogue electronics, particularly analogue synthesizer, feedback, contact microphones, objects and surfaces and computer based works. For **Wet Sounds**, Julian will present the work *Photic Ellipse*, in which one set of low frequencies is played underwater, and another above the surface, creating an immersive experience for the listener.

**Eric La Casa** is a French sound artist and composer, who uses sound as a visual substance to create a tapestry of sound environments. The sounds are cinematic and evoking, and their original 'meanings' are transmuted into a rich and strange abstract narrative. "...Listening becomes tied up in the surfaces of the world. Recordings, sonic readings, open out into a musical form which reactivates a perception of that which surrounds us, whether visible or not."

**Adrian Moore** is a composer of electroacoustic music. He directs the University of Sheffield Sound Studios (USSS) where researchers and composers collaborate on new musical projects. Moore's research interests are focused on the development of the acousmatic tradition in electroacoustic music, signal processing, and human-computer interaction in music. His music has been commissioned by the Groupe de Recherches Musicales (GRM), the Institute International de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges (IMEB) and the Arts Council of England.

**Pierre Henry** is a French composer and the pioneer of *musique concrete*, a genre of electronic music. Henry began experimenting at the age of 15 with sounds produced by various objects, and became fascinated with the integration of noise into music. He studied with Olivier Messiaen and Félix Passerone at the Paris Conservatoire from 1938 to 1948. Between 1949 and 1958, Henry worked at the Club d'Essai studio at RTF, founded by Pierre Schaeffer. During this period, he wrote *Symphonie pour un homme seul*, in cooperation with Schaeffer. He also composed the first musique concrète to appear in a commercial film, and scored numerous films and ballets. Among Henry's best known works is the experimental 1967 ballet *Messe pour le temps présent*, written with Michel Colombier, and one of several cooperations with choreographer Maurice Béjart featuring the popular track *Psyché Rock*. Henry will compose a new work for the London **Wet Sounds** performance.



**Simon Whetham** produces episodic and dramatic works, composing from field recordings he has gathered. Simon has worked with Scanner and Francisco Lopez, his work taking him to Mongolia, Brazil and Estonia amongst others. Simon's work is published by Touch Music. For the London installation Simon will recreate Alvin Lucier's seminal work *I am sitting in a room*. The work will work towards finding the resonant frequencies of the swimming pool itself.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Sound travels four times faster in water than it does in the air. **Wet Sounds** allows the audience to perceive sound not only through the ears, but through the entire body. The activity promotes relaxation, concentration, and openness.

People hard of hearing have a chance to experience sound in a way previously unavailable to them – sound textures are heard clearly and detailed underwater through the skull and bones.

**Wet Sounds** is a production of Newtoy, and is created and curated by **Joel Cahen**, himself a sound artist. Cahen's interests and artistic practice centre around sound collage created from recorded environments, film soundtracks, and sound effects. Cahen presents a weekly show *Sound Soup* on Resonance FM, and works composing sound for film and in collaboration with other sound artists, and performers.



This is the third UK tour of **Wet Sounds**, following tours in 2008 and 2009, as well as tours in Scandinavia (2009) and Normandy (2010). Over the last three years, **Wet Sounds** has staged unique performances and events with a range of internationally-renowned artists and groups, including *Nurse With Wound*, *Francisco Lopez*, *Leafcutter John*, *Cluster*, and has presented its programmes in collaboration with many international arts festivals, including AV Festival, ISEA Ruhr 2010, Insomnia Tromsø, Nu Musik Stavanger, Ultima Oslo, and Helsinki Festival.

The **Wet Sounds** tour is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, PRS for Music Foundation, Newcastle City Council, Tower Hamlets Council, Oxford City Council, and is organised in collaboration with Bangor Sound City festival, Glasgow Film Festival, Fierce Festival (Birmingham), Oxford Brookes University, and Brighton Science Festival.

