

SARC @ Sounds Alive Festival

6 – 7th September 2014, Dublin

<http://soundsoutloud.com>

A call for Fixed Media Pieces and Sound Installations

I am proud to have been asked to curate parts of the Sounds Alive Festival in Dublin, 6 - 7th September 2014. Taking place in some incredibly unusual spaces – the Egyptian themed Grand Chapter Room, the Prince Masons Room and the Knight Templar Preceptory Room in the Freemasons in Dublin (see photos below) - SARC has been given day time listening sessions and venues for sound installations that ‘tell stories’. It is for those spaces that I am now soliciting works.

I am looking for fixed media pieces of varying lengths and 2 or 3 sounds installations that suit the rooms and their inherent acoustics.

The fixed media works and installations should address story telling, whether this relates to the process of creating the piece or to narrative content in the work itself. Sound is central to the festival, and therefore works that focus on innovative, new, fun and exploratory ways of experiencing sound will be warmly welcomed.

All rooms will be open to attendees throughout the day and in the run-up to both of the evening radio concerts (see below for further details). The rooms can accommodate only 20-30 people max per space, so I am interested in small, intimate installations that won't be physically too intrusive but are ambitious and will essentially enhance these remarkable listening spaces.

The festival's emphasis is *sound* and *story-telling* and all submissions need to address this theme (see below for the festival's aims and description).

To be considered for the festival, please email Franziska Schroeder:

- a short description of the fixed media piece and/or proposed sound installation and how the work might use the specific space (you can apply for both categories)
- a URL to the fixed media piece
- the length of the piece
- technical requirements
- a short biography

Email to: f.schroeder@qub.ac.uk AND cc: julien.clancy@gmail.com

The proposal should be no longer than 300 words in total.

The deadline for all submissions is 31 May 2014.

Sounds Alive Festival

<http://soundsoutloud.com>

The Sounds Alive festival is a celebration of stories told through sound. Taking place over the weekend of September 6th & 7th 2014, the festival features the best of international radio, documentary, features, podcasts and found sound showcased & performed across three floors of one of the city's most stunning & curious spaces, the Dublin Freemasons Hall. The festival aims to introduce public audiences as well as those working with audio to the incredible renaissance of crafted radio that really pushes the boundary of what can be done with both sound & story. Over the weekend, listeners will attend a series of listening events, talks, workshops & performances that will not only introduce them to new voices in radio but will also hopefully help those working in sound to find their voice too. It's about people from different creative backgrounds getting together to explore possible new collaborations and exciting audio projects together so whether you're a sound designer, musician, radio producer or even a listener the festival aims to expand to provide a unique platform where we can all come together to celebrate & create audio that pushes the boundary of both sound & story.

Saturday night – 8pm-10pm

Opening the festival on the Saturday night, will be the presenter & producer of one of the most popular podcasts in the world, 99% Invisible, a programme which began in a bedroom but has since been downloaded over 20 million times to date. In his first ever European appearance, Roman Mars will present an evening telling the story behind a podcast that celebrates the hidden world of design & architecture and has not only helped shape what stories are told on the radio but how they get there in the first place. In 2012, Roman launched a Kickstarter campaign in the US, which went on to break all records for a journalism project when over 11,000 subscribers pledged over \$370,000 dollars so that the radio series could go from monthly to weekly. Roman is also the program director of the Public Radio Exchange in the States, an online platform & radio show, which brings together Radio Stations & Radio Producers to help showcase the best in crafted docs & features. Most recently Roman helped found Radiotopia, a collective of groundbreaking story-driven podcasts.

Roman will be talking about helping to drive the way people view & experience radio stories in a special talk on Saturday night which will be followed by the first ever European live performance of a compilation of episodes of 99% Invisible.

Sunday 10am-4pm

During the day on Sunday, a series of talks and presentations will take place, which will help showcase the best of creative Irish talent in radio and audio to an audience of radio-lovers, listeners and fellow creators. The line-up is still currently being finalized but it's hoped that they will include;

- A special **listening event** hosted by Women on Air which promotes equality in broadcasting will showcase some of the amazing docs & features produced by its members and the fascinating story behind how they were made.
- **Beyond Radio** with Jonathan McCrea of Newstalk's *Futureproof*, a science series that has begun to take the radio out of the studio and around the world with sound rich & story led docs on the Northern Lights in Norway and the launch of a European satellite into outer space from South America.
- A **special panel discussion** with Roman Mars & our other headliner the award winning radio producer Matt Loftus & Historian, Author & Broadcaster, Prof. David Hendy on why now is such an amazing time to be telling stories through sound.
- **Participative Sonic Arts** – a discussion and listening event exploring collaborative projects such as sound maps (e.g. the Belfast Soundmap produced by SARC) and participative projects such as “Sounds of the City” which has recently developed the follow-on project “Som da Maré”, set in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, led by Pedro Rebelo. These experiences will be discussed in the context of future projects set in Dublin.
- **A distributed improvisation** - an improvised, distributed performance across various rooms, featuring Paul Stapleton's BONSAI sound sculpture plus other invited improvisers. Launch event for “Soundweaving: Writings on improvisation” (ed. Franziska Schroeder, 2014; Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

Sunday 8pm-10pm

The festival will close with a one off radio concert performance based around the epic sounds of the 30 pt. radio series for BBC 4, *Noise: A Human History*. The ambitious evening will attempt to condense over 100,000 years of sounds into a 90minute performance presented by Historian & Broadcaster, Prof. David Hendy. The concert will chronicle the story of sound in all its forms from music and speech to echoes, chanting, drumbeats, bells, thunder, gunfire, the noise of crowds, the rumbles of the human body, laughter, silence, conversations, mechanical sounds, noisy neighbors, musical recordings and radio. Led by David, it will combine both live narration, recorded sound & story to explain how we learned to overcome our fears about the natural world, perhaps even to control it, live alongside our fellow beings, and find privacy in an increasingly noisy world. The radio concert will also feature excerpts of specially commissioned re-imaginings of the radio series through sound & music produced by both the new Head of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop & Composer, Matthew Herbert as well as the electronic Jazz collective Hidden Orchestra. *Noise*; will be a spectacular end to an incredible festival where we celebrate all that is good and all that is great about stories told through sound.

A call for Sound Installations

As part of the festival during the daytime, a number of the Freemasons most curious rooms and intimate spaces will be open to attendees to experience and interact with. They include the Egyptian themed Grand Chapter Room, the Prince Masons Room and the Knight Templar Preceptory Room. These rooms will be used for day-time listening sessions, curated by Franziska Schroeder from SARC, Belfast. We are

currently inviting proposals for how these spaces could be used for interesting, site-specific sound installations. We are looking for installations which have an interesting story to tell, whether that's how they were inspired, created or used in the past. Obviously sound is also central to the festival so installations that focus on innovative, new, fun and exploratory ways of experiencing sound will be warmly welcomed. These rooms will be open to attendees throughout the day and in the run-up to both of the evening radio concerts and can accommodate only 20-30 people max per space so we are interested in small intimate installations that won't be physically too intrusive but are ambitious, innovative and will essentially enhance these remarkable listening spaces.



Knight's Templar Preceptory Room



Prince Mason's Room



Grand Chapter Room



Dublin Freemasons Hall



Grand Lodge of Freemasons

What is Sounds Alive?

Sounds Alive began as a series of curated listening sessions where independent Radio Producer, Julien Clancy began showcasing incredible radio stories to intimate audiences in unusual venues. Since then he has created and hosted a series of ever-growing radio themed events which bring audiences together to not only hear remarkable stories told through sound but to meet the creators of them. Previous Sounds Alive events have taken place in everywhere from the Science Gallery to Electric Picnic & the Fringe Festival however it was last October where the biggest Sounds Alive event took place in the Freemasons Hall in Dublin. Over 200 people squeezed into the audience to hear the debut performance of a specially commissioned composition by artists David Kitt & Margie Lewis who took the audio used in producer Colette Kinsella's *Conversations in the Dark* and used it as inspiration for a 24 minute piece of original music. Since January, Sounds Alive has hosted events with award winning radio producers like Love +Radio's Nick Van Der Kolk and wildlife recordist Chris Watson and last month saw a very special event with one of the biggest storytelling organizations in the world, The Moth where news of the very first Sounds Alive festival was announced to a sold out audience.