

MADELEINE FLYNN & TIM HUMPHREY *THIS MAP IS NOT TO SCALE*

Presented by Melbourne International Arts Festival
and Spiegeltent International



The Spiegeltent,
the Arts Centre Forecourt
Tue 21 Oct at 7pm
1hr no interval

Principal Public Partner



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www.melbournefestival.com.au

BACKGROUND ON THIS MAP IS NOT TO SCALE

During 2008 we held an ANAT Synapse Residency at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. We were working with materials gathered from genetic processes which are usually displayed visually. During this time we developed a sonification of this genetic process material.

This Map is Not to Scale uses this sonification of genetic processes as an electronic and interactive underscore for laptop with works for piano, Pearl River Organ, toy piano, trumpet, flugelhorn, harmonica, voice and field recordings.

Using the techniques we have developed through working in theatre and dance – the forms of the prologue, underscore, theme and punctuation – we have created a 50 minute work which is a duet of music for theatre, where the theatre comes from the source material itself, the human genetic process, upon which all the contexts of life occur. At the heart of the work, is a concern with human expression a concern with the micro-scale of the genetic process and the macro effect upon a human population of the outcome of the research.

An imaginary theatre plays out aurally around the representations of this process, with us as barely perceptible figures moving between instruments.

Woven through the micro-scale sounds from genetic research are epic, tragic or even humorous flavours including: a Chinese “Tunnel Song” from the Korean War, gathered for a documentary film music project; fragments of Feldman’s “Triadic Memories”; and a piece based on a Lorca poem *Nocturno del hueco* (*Nocturne of Emptied Space*), written by the poet Federico García Lorca and published in the collection *Poeta en Nueva York* (*Poet in New York*) in 1940.

All of these inclusions reflect on the idea of scale – temporal, thematic, and human – that infuses music.

In the spirit of a work of music for theatre, we ask you to hold your applause until the end of the show.

MADELEINE FLYNN & TIM HUMPHREY

Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey are award winning Australian artists in music and sound who have performed collaboratively since 1993. They have a long term practice with dancer/choreographer Tony Yap, and they direct *The Megaphone Project*, an installation that investigates the human voice and intimate listening in public spaces. In October 2007 they created *John Cage’s Musicircus* for Melbourne International Arts Festival. They have recently been awarded an ANAT National Award Synapse Residency at the Garvan Institute in Sydney where they are working on the sonification of genetic material. For the 2008 Melbourne Festival, they are creating two works: *echolocation* with US sound artist, Alex Stahl and *This Map is Not to Scale*, a duet of sound for theatre.

www.madeleineandtim.net

THIS MAP IS NOT TO SCALE

Piece for Sky

Piano, Laptop

This piece extends the 'decay' of the piano, with its varied frequency content, and is a tilt towards the work of Hellen, for whom it was originally written.

Microarray #1

Real time data sets, Piano, Trumpet

This texture includes simple oscillators used to sonify research data from the Garvan Institute. We have sought to reflect something of the complexity of life within living cells, where some processes provide a temporary environment for other processes to occur within. We discovered that the 'found' human variety of genetic process can cradle the harmonic insights of Morton Feldman, and other material in this piece.

The River of Bees

Pre-recorded text, Organ, Whistling, Harmonica

This piece is a reflection on the poem by WS Merwin, and dedicated with affection to Ray.

Gates of Heaven

Bach Prelude for Piano and Trumpet

Another harmonic language. Reminiscent of the church organ in Tungamah.

Tunnel Song

Harmonica, Toy Piano, Texts and Found sounds

These sounds were collected in China in 2008 during a research trip towards a documentary project on the Korean War. "Tunnel Song" was created following the Fifth Campaign by the Chinese Peoples Volunteer Forces in Korea and was collected from a museum on the war in Dandong, PRC on the Yalu River, which divides China from the Korean Peninsula. Performances took place largely underground during this final phase of the war when both sides were deadlocked across the 38th parallel.

Listening to Messiaen

Real-time data set, Piano, Flugelhorn

A memory of a small boy aged six, lying awake in a little house in Abbotsford, hearing his mother practice this favourite chronicle of the transcendent human spirit ("Quartet for the End of Time").

Snow

Noise, Piano, Muted trumpet, Real-time data set

The idea of frozen, crystalline structures, but water-soluble.

'Para ver que todo se ha ido' - Lorca

Organ, Voice, Trumpet

*If you want to see that nothing is left,
see the emptied spaces and the clothes,
give me your lunar glove,
your other glove of grass,
my love!*

*The air can tear dead snails from the elephant's lung
and blow the stiff, cold worms
from budding light or apples.*

*Inside you, my love, in your flesh,
the silence of derailed trams!
So many mummies' arms in bloom!
What a dead-end sky, my love, what a sky!*

*If you want to see that nothing is left,
my impenetrable love, now that you have gone,
don't give me your emptied space. No.
Mine is already travelling through the air!
Who will pity you, or me, or the breeze?
If you want to see that nothing is left.*

Eyes Open, eyes shut

Samples from *Taman Negara* Malaysia, Piano, Trumpet

We have worked for several years with Tony Yap on dance pieces inspired by the ecstatic body as practised in Malaysian shamanistic ritual.

Thanks to Shane Grey, Gaby Higgins, Hellen Sky, The Business, Denis K Smith, Xiao Bing Li, Tony Yap, Meredith Rogers, Toni Edwards, Ana Ruiz, Adam Hutterer, Rus Snelling, Lauren Snelling, the CHI group, the generous directors and choreographers who inspire us, and our children Sam, Jordy and Winnie.

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