

Artist and Professor of Sound Arts

Selected Projects:

Points of Departure [2021]:

A monumental night-time event as part of Brighton Festival and presented at Shoreham Port drawing together a number of my outdoor kinetic sculptures with specially made new works. The centre piece of the 2021 Brighton Festival, 'Points of Departure' ran for the full three weeks of the festival. Financially supported by Brighton Festival.

Congregation [2019]:

Congregation is an interactive outdoor participatory work where sonic spheres take the audience on a sonic mystery tour. Commissioned by Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Out There Arts and financially supported by Without Walls, Oxford Contemporary Music, Oxford Brookes University and 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Centre.

- 2023 ● Ambulatory Arts (for Dumbworld), Belfast; ● Shanghai Performing Arts Fair, China; ● Wuzhen Theatre Festival, China
- 2022 ● Oxford Contemporary Music, Oxford
- 2021 ● Carridgeworks theatre, Leeds; ● Festival of the Sea, Grimsby; ● Team London Bridge, London
- 2020 ● La Strada Festival, Graz, Austria [September]
- 2019 ● 101 Outdoor Arts [premiere]; ● Norfolk and Norwich Festival; ● Greenwich and Docklands Festival; ● Hat Fair, Winchester; ● Stockton International Riverside Festival; ● Freedom Festival, Hull; ● Out There festival, Great Yarmouth; ● Three Palaces Festival, Malta

Ring Out [2017-present]:

Ring Out is a giant kinetic sound art work for outdoor locations. It was supported by a PRS New Music Biennial 2017 Commission, The Arts Council of England, Oxford Contemporary Music and Oxford Brookes University.

- 2021 ● Norfolk and Norwich Festival
- 2020 ● Silvertown Docks, Greenwich and Docklands Festival
- 2018 ● Llawn Festival, Llandudno, Wales. Soundlands commission
- 2017 ● Clarendon Quad, Bodleian Library, Oxford Light Festival; ● Southbank Centre, London; ● Hull City of Culture; ● Newbury Market Place, Corn Exchange Newbury

Chorus [2013-present]:

Chorus is a composition for a monumental installation of rotating sound machines designed for outdoor locations. Funded by Arts Council England, PRS Foundation for new music, Oxford Contemporary Music, Corn Exchange Newbury and Oxford Brookes University. Shortlisted for the British Composer of the Year Award for Sonic Art 2014.

- 2022 ● Festival of Sound, Basingstoke; ● The Future Starts Here, Grimsby
- 2021 ● Birmingham Weekender; ● Derby Feste; ● SPILL, Ipswich; ● Lumin Festival Crewe
- 2020 ● Greenwich and Docklands Festival; ● Appetite, Stoke on Trent
- 2019 ● Encounter Festival, Preston
- 2018 ● Cheriton Light festival, Folkestone, UK; ● Dimanche de la Canebière, Marseilles, France; ● Lakes Alive Festival, Kendal Castle, UK
- 2017 ● Hong Kong International Arts Festival; ● Georgetown Festival, Malaysia; ● Circulate London Tour: Deptford; Stratford Circus; Edmonton; Hounslow; ● Connected Cities, Seoul, South Korea;
- 2016 ● Winter Lights Festival, Canary Wharf, London; ● Zone Artistique Temporaire, Montpellier, France; ● Freedom Festival, Hull; ● Inside Out Festival, Dorset; ● New Scientist Live, London;
- 2015 ● White Night Melbourne, Australia; ● Sibiu International Theatre Festival, Romania; ● Warsaw Autumn International Contemporary Music Festival, Poland;
- 2014 ● Future City Festival, Salford; ● Milton Keynes International Festival; ● WOMAD Festival, Charlton Park, Wiltshire; ● National Theatre Outdoors, Southbank, London;

- 2013 ● Lieux Public, Place de l'Opera, Marseilles, France; ● Winchester Hat Fair Festival; ● Henley Festival; ● Bournemouth Arts Festival; ● Constellation Festival, Reading; ● Festival of Light, Huddersfield; ● Premiere, Newbury Market Place for Corn Exchange Newbury

The Ethometric Museum [2011+]:

A composition for a performance / installation of a collection of fictitious scientific instruments known as Ethometric Instruments. Using a theatrical/compositional structure the work introduces the instruments as real, questioning the line between truth and fiction. Funded by Arts Council England, Oxford Contemporary Music and Oxford Brookes University.

Winner of the British Composer of the Year Award for Sonic Art 2012.

- 2018 ● Junction, Goole
 2017 ● Charlbury; ● Ugly Duck, London
 2014 ● Science Museum, London
 2013 ● Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
 2012 ● Tesla Museum, Belgrade, Serbia, supported by the British Council; ● Alms House, Corsham Festival; ● Council Chamber, Battersea Arts Centre, London; ● Gravity Fields Festival, Grantham; ● Natural Science Society, Bournemouth Arts Festival
 2011 ● BEAM sound art festival, Brunel University, London; ● Cellar of Mason's Lodge, Hill Street, Edinburgh; ● The Old Library, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell; ● Premiere at Museum for the History of Science, Oxford.

“A kind of musical H.G.Wells” Ivan Hewitt, Radio 3

“The oscillating sonorities thrum into something exquisite, unearthly, transcendental.” The Herald ****

Swarm [2008-2010]:

A kinetic sound composition designed for atrium spaces consisting of a series of suspended motors from each of which were hung three loudspeakers. As the motors rotate the loudspeakers were swung out by centrifugal force, emitting stored sounds above the heads of the audience. Originally commissioned by Muziek Centrum Nederland it was recomposed for FACT, Liverpool 2008/2009.

- 2010 ● (V 3) Battersea Arts Centre, London
 08/09 ● (V 2) Atrium of FACT [Foundation for Arts and Creative Technology], Liverpool. December 2008 to February 2009. Part of Liverpool European City of Culture.
 2008 ● (V1) Atrium of Amsterdam Muziekgebouw. Commissioned by Muziek Centrum Nederlands. 'a sweet, sonic shower of Ambient electronica' The Wire

Siren [2004+]:

A 45min performance of a composition for a large-scale kinetic sound installation consisting of rotating sirens. Originally commissioned in 2004 by Oxford Contemporary Music and financially supported by Arts Council England it has since been performed over 300 times in 16 countries across 3 continents with significant British Council support. Broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Daily Telegraph feature.

- 2017 ● Attenborough Arts Centre, University of Sussex; ● Matadero, Madrid [automated version]; ● Coastal Currents Festival, Hastings UK
 2015 ● Alhondiga Gallery, Bilbao, Spain [automated version]
 2014 ● SPILL Festival, Ipswich UK
 2012 ● Galway Festival, Ireland
 2011 ● Theatre Trafo, Budapest, Hungary; ● Straw Theatre, Tallinn, Estonia; ● LAB 30 Festival, Augsburg, Germany
 2010 ● WOMADelaide, Australia
 2009 ● Under the Radar festival, New York, USA; ● PUSH International Festival, Vancouver, Canada; ● Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, USA; ● Wexner Arts Center, Columbus, Ohio, USA; ● Auckland International Festival, New Zealand; ● 10 Days Festival, Tasmania, Australia; ● Melbourne International Festival, Australia; ● Sleepless Night Festival, Miami, USA

- 2008 ●Kontejner, Zagreb, Croatia; ●LEV Festival, Laboral, Gijon, Spain; ●Circulo, Tenerife [automated version]; ●International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, USA; ●Gaudeamus Music Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ●Ignite Festival, Royal Opera House, London UK
- 2007 ●Shunt, London Bridge; ●Victoria Baths, Manchester, Futuresonic Festival; ●British Council International Showcase, Edinburgh; ●Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria; ●Ponctuation Grande Bretagne, Angers, France; ●Festival les Urbaines, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2005 ●Festival A/D Werf, Utrecht
- 2004 ●Hanger 3022, disused F1-11 fighter jet hanger at ex-US Airbase, Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire.

“hums with beauty” Metro Daily, Auckland; “Taking in Sirens is a bit like ingesting a mild hallucinogen, then waiting for the buzz to hit. And it does hit...” PLANK Magazine, Vancouver
 “a mesmerising journey into the nature of sound” The Age, Melbourne

Force Field [2007-2009]:

A 30 minute performance of a composition for MIDI Theremin and sound machines. By interacting with the electro-magnetic ‘force field’ that surrounds the Theremin, Lee activates and controls a series of kinetic sound machines creating music and movement from the Ether. Somewhere between a Victorian illusion, a performance of electronic music and a scientific demonstration, *Force Field* is an exploration of invisible forces made tangible, audible and physical. *Force Field* received an **Honorary Mention at the 2008 Prix Ars Electronica, digital music** and was developed with the aid of a research and development grant from the Arts Council of England.

- 2008 ●Science Gallery, Dublin; ●Bishopsgate Institute, London. Co-presented with Kinetica Museum
- 2007 ●ICA, London.

The Theremin Lesson / Spin / Choir:

‘The Theremin Lesson’ was a 25 minute performance made as part of a Year of the Artist residency in Masson Mill, Derbyshire in 2000. Using the disused top floor of the historic mill, Lee created a series of sound machines that evoked the sense of spinning with sound. It was reconfigured as ‘Spin’, a 30 minute performance at Bonington Gallery, Nottingham, and part of this piece became ‘Choir’, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford.

- 2000 ‘The Theremin Lesson’ Year of the Artist award winning project for residency in Masson Mills, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire. 4 performances.
- 2001 ‘Spin’ Sound performance/installation for the Sensitive Skin international festival, Future Factory Nottingham. 5 performances.
- 2001 ‘Choir’ Sound performance/installation at MOMA, Oxford, for the OX1 Festival. Arts Council England funded. 4 performances.

Swing [1994-1999]:

A composition originally made for the surface building of a disused coal mine in Snibston, Leicestershire, *Swing* consisted of a series of suspended loudspeaker cones made to swing above the heads of the audience by a team of ‘bell ringers’. Discrete sounds emitted from each speaker replayed a composition that evoked a sense of the industrial history of the building. *Swing* was presented at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and was broadcast on Hear and Now, BBC Radio 3.

- 1999 ●Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. ‘A fascinating counterpoint of sound and light’ The Independent.
- 1995 ●Barclays New Stages Festival in Nottinghamshire. Performances in disused electricity generating station
- 1994 ● ‘Un Earth’ Fine Rats International event at Snibston Coal Mine, Leicestershire.

Lee and Dawes [1993-1998]:

Ray Lee and Harry Dawes created four touring music theatre performances aiming to create theatre out of the production of music. They received the prestigious Barclays New Stages Award for 'In the Ether' and toured nationally and internationally. In 1996 they performed at the centenary celebration of Theremin's birth in Moscow.

- 1994 'The Modulation' Lee and Dawes. 12 performances.
- 1996/7 'In the Ether', Lee and Dawes. Performance-music. Winner of a Barclays New Stages Award and a BT-EMA Innovation Award. National tour, 24 performances. Performances in Moscow and Berlin. 'Music.... but not as we know it' The Daily Telegraph. Appearances on BBC1 (Good Morning with Anne and Nick), BBC Radio2
- 1997 'Loud and Clear', Lee and Dawes. Commission from Southern Arts for site specific performance-music installation performance.
- 1998 'Loop', Lee and Dawes. Performance-music. National tour. 18 performances. Commissioned by MAC, Birmingham and supported by the Arts Council of England. 'You're in for a treat...'The Guardian. Performances at Polverigi International theatre Festival, Italy

Other Collaborations:

- 2005 'Powerplant' Oxford Contemporary Music / Mark Anderson, Botanical Gardens, Oxford.
- 2005 'Electrical Walks' Concert with Christina Kubisch, Oxford.

Photography installations [1988-1998]:

- 1998 'Two Sides' Staged photography. Permanent photographic installation of double sided photograph 1.5m x 1.2m at Derby Dance Centre. Commissioned by Contemporary Independent Artists. With commercial sponsorship from CPL Ltd.
- 1998 One person show City Gallery, Leicester. Photographic installation.
- 1995 'Komunikácie' Selected as one of three British photographers for a photographic exchange visit to Slovakia. Exhibitions, lectures, workshops. Touring exhibition in Slovakia 1996/7. Catalogue 'Komunikácie' ISBN80-966989-8-2. 'The grand, colour rich phototheatre of Ray Lee indicates new possibilities of photography as a medium.' Lucia Benika, curator Tatranska Galeria, Slovakia.
- 1995 'Building Better Humans' Photographic and sound installation at Bonington Gallery featuring a 30 Foot (9.14m) long x 6 Foot (1.83m) high colour photographic print.
- 1991 'Going Home: Colonies on Mars and the New Garden of Eden'. Staged photography. Angel Row Gallery, Nottm. Notts County Council, East Midlands Arts commission. Ten 3' x 3'(0.9mx0.9m) colour photographic prints.
- 88-'91 'Utopian Dreams-Foreign Wars' Touring installation of Stereo Viewmaster. 3-D Photography, Focal Point, Nottingham; Picture House, Leicester; Watershed, Bristol; The Minories, Colchester.

Publication:

Chapter: *Sound and Wonder: The Sound Arts Theatre of Ray Lee*, Ray Lee in Grant, Matthias, and Prior, *The Oxford Handbook of Sound Art*, Oxford University Press 2021

Education and qualifications:

PhD (by Published Work), Oxford Brookes University 2015
BA(Hons) Creative Arts, Trent Polytechnic 1983

Employment:

Self-employed Artist
Professor of Sound Arts, Oxford Brookes University (half-time)