



WYSING POLYPHONIC - WYSING ARTS CENTRE'S MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS SUMMER

SATURDAY 2 JULY 2016, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Wysing Polyphonic is the seventh annual music event at Wysing Arts Centre and the first to be fully acoustic; with no microphones, speakers, backing tracks, laptops or electronics. Building on the legacy of the previous festivals at Wysing, the 2016 festival continues to address the boundaries of sonic experimentation, through vocal improvisation, song, spoken word, drone and noise.

A wide range of musicians, poets, writers and visual artists will respond to the parameters of the festival, which will rely on their experimental approach to working with the voice, instruments and objects. Performances include abstract sound experiments, choral ensembles, improvised jazz, whistling, spoken word, song, and performances using ancient instruments.

Much of what will take place at Wysing will be improvised and completely unique to the festival and the specific surroundings and context of Wysing.

The line-up announced today includes:

**Adam Bohman / Barnaby Brown / David Toop / Evan Parker / Jennifer Walshe /
Laura Cannell / Keiko Yamamoto / Pierre Berthet / Paul Purgas / Richard Dawson /
Rie Nakajima / Secluded Bronte / Verity Susman**

**Adam Christensen / Andy Holden / David Blandy / Emma Smith / Florence Peake / Jenny Moore /
Keef Winter / Larry Achiampong / Laura O'Neill /
Natalie Price Hafslund / Sam Belinfante**

Crispin Best / Linda Stupart / Megan Nolan / Rachel Benson

Wysing Arts Centre Director and festival Curator, Donna Lynas, said, "*Wysing Polyphonic will provide a different kind of festival experience, one of unexpected encounters and of concentrated listening in an unmediated and experimental form. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Wysing this summer.*"

Line-up details (click on names to link to Youtube, Vimeo and Soundcloud):

Adam Bohman has been operating on the outer fringes of underground music for decades. His music is unique and experimental, incorporating Fluxus japey, musique concrete, sound poetry and free improvisation. He is a member of British experimental groups, Morphogenesis, The Bohman Brothers, Secluded Bronte, and The London Improvisers Orchestra.

Barnaby Brown is an expert in ancient instruments and particularly champions the revival of the ancestor to the Highland bagpipe, the triplepipe. Brown will be performing the triplepipes, which have a unique drone sound, for Wysing Polyphonic.

David Toop is a composer, musician, author and curator experienced in many fields of sound art and music, including improvisation, sound installations, field recordings, pop music production, music for television, theatre and dance.

Evan Parker has been a consistently innovative presence in British free music since the 1960s. For Wysing Polyphonic he will perform his solo soprano saxophone music; a singular body of work that in recent years has centred around his continuing exploration of techniques such as circular breathing, split tonguing, overblowing, multiphonics and cross-pattern fingering.

Jennifer Walshe is a composer, vocalist and performer. Her work has been performed by ensembles such as Alter Ego, ensemble recherche, Ensemble Resonanz, Apartment House, Crash Ensemble, Con Tempo Quartet, The Rilke Ensemble, Musica Nova Consort and various chamber orchestras. In addition to her activities as a composer, Jennifer performs as a vocalist, specialising in extended techniques.

Laura Cannell's work draws on the emotional influences of the East Anglian landscape and the sometimes dissonant chords of early and medieval music. With deconstructed bow and the extraordinary sound of double recorder, Laura's music has grown out of unearthed fragments that became improvised pieces.

Pierre Berthet is a musician, composer, inventor, craftsman who lives and works in Liège, Belgium. He studied percussion with André Van Belle and Georges-Elie Octors, improvisation with Garrett List, composition with Frederic Rzewski and music theory with Henri Pousseur. Alongside performing his own work Berthet will perform *Galileo* by American minimalist composer Tom Johnson.

Paul Purgas is an artist whose musical project Emptyset, with James Ginzberg, examines the material properties of sound and its correspondence with architecture, performance and physical modes of production. For Wysing Polyphonic, Purgas will present a new solo performance.

Richard Dawson - rising up from the bed of the River Tyne, a voice that crumbles and soars, that is steeped in age old balladry and finely-chiselled observations of the mundane, Richard Dawson is a skewed troubadour at once charming and abrasive.

Rie Nakajima and Keiko Yamamoto, working together as O Yama O, create a delicate soundscape using everyday objects and inspired by Japanese folk tales, anthropology and domestic life routines. Yamamoto is the co-founder of London music venue Café Oto.

Secluded Bronte is a musical project by Adam and Jonathan Bohman and Richard Thomas that is a fusion of conceptual art, sketches, live musique concrète, wild electronics, noise and poetry. For Wysing Polyphonic, they will perform a collaboration with artist Andy Holden with whom they worked on the film *Brontë Country*, in 2015.

Verity Susman is a composer and musician who was previously was lead singer and multi-instrumentalist in the band Electrelane. She has performed solo appearances at the Venice Biennale (2011), Yoko Ono's Meltdown festival (2013), and a live soundtrack to the silent horror film *Häxan*, which toured Scottish cinemas as part of the BFI's Gothic season (2013). She composes music for film and recently collaborated with video artist James Richards.

Adam Christensen is a visual artist and a member of the band Ectopia who are currently recording their first record on Wysing's new record label Wysing Polyphonic. Christensen will be performing his solo project for the festival, for voice and accordion.

David Blandy and **Larry Achiampong** are visual artists who share an interest in popular culture and the post-colonial position; examining communal and personal heritage within their collaborative practice and using performance to investigate the self as a fiction.

Emma Smith is a visual artist who as a performance based social practice, creating public platforms for experimentation and research through site-specific actions, events and installations. For Wysing Polyphonic, Smith will be bringing her recent project the Whistling Orchestra.

Florence Peake is a visual artist who has had extensive training in dance. Peake's performance practice uses drawing, painting and sculpture materials combined with found and fabricated objects placed in relationship to the moving body. Site and audience, live and recorded text, wit and humour are key to her work.

Jenny Moore is a multi-instrumentalist whose music projects include the bands Bas Jan and Charismatic Megafauna; a feminist percussion and drumming ensemble. For Wysing Polyphonic Moore is developing a new work for drums and voices.

Keef Winter is a visual artist with interests in art and architecture with sculpture, installation, noise-making and performance. He is a member of the band Not Squares.

Laura O'Neill and Natalie Price Hafslund are visual artists who will collaborate on a new performance for Wysing Polyphonic, for which a low-fi sci-fi brain-wave control device will connect them to quartz singing bowls.

Sam Belinfante is a visual artist and musician. His curatorial projects operate as an extension of his studio practice in a mixture of performance, choreography and collaboration. He recently curated the exhibition *Listening* and co-directed *The Changing Room*, a new opera with Bruce McLean.

The festival will include a section of readings and spoken word performances by poets, writers and artists including:

Crispin Best

Linda Stupart

Megan Nolan

Rachel Benson

The word Polyphonic means many voices and is both the name of this year's festival and Wysing's new record label. The festival is part of Wysing's **Wysing Poly** year of programming – a theme which aims to provide an environment where diverse practices and theory come together to support the development of experimental new work and the application of new ideas.

BOOKING & LISTINGS DETAILS:

WYSING POLYPHONIC

SATURDAY JULY 2, 2016

WYSING ARTS CENTRE,

BOURN, CAMBRIDGE, CB23 2TX

Early Bird Day pass, £15 plus booking fee

Early Bird Day plus travel from Cambridge, £20 plus booking fee

Early Bird Day plus travel from London, £25 plus booking fee

Early Bird Day plus Camping per person, £25 plus booking fee

Early Bird tickets are available until 2 June and then will go up by £5
http://www.wysingartscentre.org/whats_on/annual_music_festival

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#wysingpolyphonic

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

HISTORY OF MUSIC AT WYSING ARTS CENTRE

“One of the UK’s most tightly curated festivals” Emily Bick, *The Wire*, 2015

2015: *Space-Time: The Multiverse*. Altered states and multiple realities were explored in a festival that included Beatrice Dillon (currently artist-in-residence at Wysing), James Holden, Klara Lewis and Bruce Gilbert.

2014: *Space-Time: The Future*. The first all-female music festival with a line-up including Holly Herndon, Karen Gwyer, Helena Hauff, Trash Kit, The Raincoats, and many more.

2013: *Space-Time: Convention T*. Including Venetian Snares, Cut Hands, Russell Haswell and Luke Abbott*, amongst others, playing alongside an ambitious new commission by US artist Keren Cytter, who collaborated with UK bands Maria & the Mirrors and Vindicatrix.

2012: *Space-Time: If It Was It Can't Be Is*. CAN's Damo Suzuki, Alexander Tucker and Emptyset and the late Bruce Lacey, played alongside emerging bands Maria & The Mirrors and Ice Sea Dead People. Artists Mark Titchner, Bruce Lacey, Anthea Hamilton and Boyle Family also made contributions.

2011: *Space-Time: Past, Present, Future*. Focussing on the legacy of psychedelia, with sets from the likes of Demdike Stare, Devilman and Astral Social Club alongside talks and performances by some of the key artists involved with the 1960s underground scene such as Liliane Lijn and the late John 'Hoppy' Hopkins.

2010: *Be Glad For The Song Has No End*. The first festival was curated by artist Andy Holden and showcased visual artists with an interest in music such as Turner Prize winner Martin Creed, Bob & Roberta Smith's Apathy Band, Kaffe Matthews, Luke Fowler, and Holden's own band The Grubby Mitts.

WYSING ARTS CENTRE, established in 1989, develops new ways to support artists and enables art and ideas to engage a wide range of people in unexpected ways. Wysing's large rural site near Cambridge comprises artists' studios, education and new media facilities, a gallery and project spaces, a 17th century farmhouse and outdoor sculptures and structures. Wysing offers a unique environment for art to be developed and presented; with an ongoing and innovative artistic programme of events, exhibitions, retreats and residencies, and a unique programme for young artists.

Artists who have worked at Wysing in residencies over recent years, developing and making new work, include Ed Atkins, Anna Barham, Michael Dean, Cecile B Evans, Andy Holden, Gustav Metzger, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Laure Prouvost, James Richards and Cally Spooner.

Donna Lynas has been Director of Wysing Arts Centre since 2005 and has developed Wysing's identity as a research centre for the visual arts; introducing experimental artists' residencies and retreats and commissioning and curating ambitious projects including the annual festival of art and music.

