



PRESS RELEASE

24 February 2017

Scale Lane Bridge to be transformed into giant musical instrument

The people of Hull are being invited to become sound explorers as part of a project that will see Scale Lane Bridge transformed into a giant musical instrument for Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Funded by Hull 2017's Creative Communities Programme, delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, *Playing the Bridge* is a series of workshops, performances and installations that draws on the Indonesian *gamelan* tradition that creates music by striking tuned metalwork.

Composer Nye Parry will lead sessions at Scale Lane Bridge this weekend (**Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 February from 10am - 4pm**). In addition to experimenting with gamelan instruments, participants will be able to create sound using the bridge itself.

The workshops will culminate in a performance on 26 March 2017, in and on the bridge, featuring material created in the workshops as well as traditional and contemporary gamelan music.

Following this performance, an audio-visual installation inside the bridge (running throughout April) will reveal the inner workings of the swing bridge using projections by artist Madi Boyd that act like an x-ray, penetrating down to the mechanism and structure that lies beneath the visible surface. The projections will be accompanied by a spatial soundscape by composer Nye Parry that will combine recordings from the workshops with the reminiscences of people who constructed the bridge.

Working alongside the architect of the bridge, Jonathan McDowell, this multidisciplinary project is a collaboration with Hull Music Service, Hull Community Gamelan, York University Music Department and Hull University School of Arts and Media.

Composer Nye Parry said: "Sound and music have an extraordinary way of transforming a space while drawing people together. This project gives local people a unique chance to engage directly with the architecture of their city through music, and contribute to a multi-media experience that will re-define a local landmark."

Artist Madi Boyd said: "The artwork will enable us to reveal and celebrate the hidden technology within the Scale Lane Bridge. This spectacular audio-visual installation will provide visitors with x-ray like vision and will challenge their perception of space and movement."

Architect Jonathan McDowell said: “This is an intriguing opportunity to view the bridge through an entirely different lens and help people redefine their experience of its physical presence in the city. This installation will encourage the exploration of Scale Lane’s form, materials and history while also providing a fine excuse to bang on 350 tonnes of steel structure to make beautiful sounds, offering an alternative take on Larkin’s description of Hull’s “different resonance”.

Martin Green, CEO and Director of Hull 2017, said: “By Playing the Bridge, participants and audiences will form a new relationship with and think differently about a city landmark. It is also a fantastic opportunity to learn a new instrument and be part of an amazing City of Culture project.”

Since its opening in 2013, Scale Lane Bridge has been heralded as a unique blend of infrastructure and public space and has won numerous national and international awards since it opened. It was designed to be a focus for regeneration, a new connection between the city centre and the underdeveloped east bank of the River Hull, and a new civic place for people to enjoy the riverside. It is the world’s first bridge that allows the public to ride on it while it moves and it has already become a cultural destination in the city in its own right.

Following Nye Parry’s sessions at Scale Lane Bridge this weekend, gamelan sessions will take place on 27 February, 8 March, 13 March and 22 March at the Albemarle Music Centre, Ferensway at 7.45pm.

If you would like to get involved contact Laurence Rugg: laurencerugg@googlemail.com.

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For more information, please contact:
Robert Fiehn on rob@robertfiehn.com or
[07814 078946](tel:07814078946)

Notes to Editors

About the organisers

Nye Parry works as a composer and sound artist with a particular focus on installation and spatial concepts in music. He also has 30 years of experience playing and composing for Gamelan. He is Professor of Electronic Music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
www.nyeparry.com

Madi Boyd is an internationally known artist who combines sculptural objects with moving image. Her best known work, The Point of Perception, has been shown in The USA, Malaysia, Berlin, Ireland and widely around the UK. www.madiboyd.com

Jonathan McDowell is an architect and director of Matter Architecture. In his previous role as partner in McDowell+Benedetti, he led the team that won the international competition to design the Scale Lane Bridge, which has now received numerous awards and been widely published in the UK and abroad. Matter are currently working with Arup on the design for the new Princes Quay Bridge to be built in Hull over the A63. www.matterarchitecture.uk

Laurence Rugg (Workshop Leader) is a composer/musician working in the Hull area. Over the years

he has written a lot of music for the children he has worked with. For the past nine years he has worked with and written music for a community choir in Orkney.

About the event

Gamelan workshops are being organised through Hull Music Service and delivered at the Albermarle where the Hull Community Gamelan is housed. They will use their contacts to help recruit workshop participants from the local community. The workshops will take place on Hull's own Gamelan instruments and will be led by Laurence Rugg.

A further weekend of workshops in and on the bridge itself will be held on the weekend of 25th and 26th February. These will be led by composer Nye Parry and will include a behind the scenes tour of the bridge its architect Jonathan McDowell. Anyone wishing to participate in any of the workshops should contact laurencerugg@googlemail.com.

The York University Gamelan and postgraduate performance group The Assembled, will contribute to the concert, which will take place at 2 pm on Sunday 26th March on (and in) the bridge. It will be a free event. Starting with an evening event on Friday the 31st March, the installation, inside the circular hub will be open to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout April. It will feature projections by Madi Boyd and sound by Nye Parry. Students from Hull University School of Arts and Media (a leader in 3D sound) will assist on the realisation of the soundscape.

About Creative Communities

Playing the Bridge is one of 60 new projects to receive funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which is being delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 is being invested in the programme, which was set up to celebrate, nurture and support local talent and develop opportunities for emerging artists.

In addition to cash from Hull 2017 and the Big Lottery Fund, the projects will receive staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme is also being supported by Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust.

The projects - which range from photography exhibitions to music and food festivals and choral and orchestral concerts to audio-visual installations - will see local artists, community groups, cultural and other organisations in the city working with local people of all ages to create new artistic work, events, installations and other activity throughout 2017.

For a full list of projects visit: <https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/sixty-community-projects-inspire-creativity-across-hull-2/>

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

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About Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

About Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust

The Hollingbery Family founded the business in 1933 with the first Comet superstore opened in Hull in 1968. The business was subsequently sold to Kingfisher and in 1985 the charity was established with the defined purpose of donating funds to help and support charities, both national and local, and other deserving causes, provided that direct benefit was forthcoming for people who live in Hull or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For more information, including on how to apply for funds, see <http://hullandeastridingtrust.org.uk/>