
THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

CONCERTS

Musical Storms across the North Sea

Storm

2nd March 2007

Rymer Auditorium, University of York

Chris Watson (UK), one of the world's greatest sound artists and sound recordists, and BJNilsen (Sweden) come together to present a live performance of extraordinary detail and complexity. The project, *Storm*, has gathered sound recording of storms, environments and wildlife from both sides of the North Sea. These recordings will be presented in an enveloping soundscape, performed live by the two artists, that will transport the audience to distant and dramatic places.

Chris Watson's skills take him all over the world making field recordings for David Attenborough's BBC nature programmes. BJNilsen has recorded storms in heavy winds where it was impossible to stand up straight. Last time he was in York, in January 07, he performed live in York Minster as part of *Spire*.

Storm will be presented in the Rymer Auditorium – the UK's premier listening environment for reproduced sound – providing a fabulous opportunity to experience the work of the world's greatest sound recordists on mastering quality studio loudspeakers and a perfect acoustic environment.

A compact disc version of the *Storm* project has recently been released on Touch, but the live version in this premier auditorium promises even more.

BBCi said of the CD release: "...there's a brief moment when it feels like Watson's microphones are under the water. At the finish I was expecting to open my eyes and find the living room overrun with seaweed, driftwood and maybe a flock of stormy petrels".

Storm, the concert, is at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd March in the Rymer Auditorium, University of York.

Tickets are £8 or £6 concession.

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Chris Watson will also be conducting a location sound recording masterclass at 2.00pm on Thursday 1st March, which is free, but participants must register in advance (and can bring their own recording equipment and recordings if they wish to participate). Later that day, at 7.30pm in the Rymer Auditorium, Chris Watson will present an illustrated talk describing a personal audio perspective of the location recordings and soundtrack production techniques used in works such as *Storm*, and in his field recordings for the many wildlife productions he has work on. Tickets are £4.50, or £3.00 if booked with a ticket to *Storm* on 2nd March.

All tickets are available at the University of York box office: tel: 01904 432439 or e: boxoffice@york.ac.uk.

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For further information please contact:

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Editors Information

1. The artists

Chris Watson: A sound recordist with a particular and passionate interest in recording the wildlife sounds of animals, habitats and atmospheres from around the world. As a freelance recordist for film, tv & radio, Chris Watson specialises in natural history and documentary location sound together with track assembly and sound design in post production.

"Stepping into The Dark" won an Award of Distinction at the 2000 Prix ARS Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria

Television

'Life in the Undergrowth' for BBC TV

'The Life of Birds' for BBC TV - BAFTA Award for Best Factual Sound

'The Life of Mammals' for BBC TV

'Talking with Animals' for BBC TV

'Big Cat Diary' for BBC TV

and many others

Radio

"Night time is the Right time" BBC Radio 4

"A Swallow's Journey" BBC Radio 4 - Sony Radio Award Nominee 2002

"A Small Slice of Tranquillity" BBC Radio 4

"A Robin's Tale" BBC Radio 4

"The Sea Swallow" BBC Radio 4

and many others

Lectures & Workshops

The School of Sound, Purcell Rooms, London April 2003

Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium November 2002
Stockholm November 2001, 2002
Wildeye nature recording sound course [still active]

CDs [all on Touch]
1996 Stepping into the Dark
1998 Outside the Circle of Fire
2003 Weather Report
2007 Storm [with BJNilsen]

Brief history profile
1972 to 1981: Cabaret Voltaire
1981 to 1984: Tyne Tees television; sound recordist and founder member of The Hafler Trio
1985 to 1987: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; sound recordist and Hafler Trio projects
1987 to 1993: freelance sound recordist
1994 to present: partner with Hoi Polloi Film & Video

BJNilsen: BJNilsen lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden, Born in 1975. He has been active with experimental music and sound since the early 90s with various constellations. Since 1999 he has been releasing records as Hazard and BJNilsen on the UK labels Ash International and Touch, making music and sound for documentary film, television and commercials. He is focused on the sound of nature and its effect on humans, field recordings and the perception of time and space as experienced through sound, sometimes electronically treated.

He is also a member in the Fylkingen society.

CDs & Vinyl
1998 North
1999 Wood c/w Bridge/Field
2000 Wind [In collaboration with Chris Watson]
2002 Land
2003 BJNilsen/Hazard Live at Konzerthaus, Vienna 06_12_03
2005 Fade to white
2007 Storm [with Chris Watson]

2. Partners

SightSonic has been running an international digital arts festival in York, "with digital technology at the heart of the creative process", since 2000. SightSonic is a collaborative effort, supported by partners including: Arts Council England, Yorkshire ; City of York Council; City Screen; Creative Arts Promotion; Cube Media; First Stop York; KMA Creative Technology; LazenbyBrown; Lovebytes; National Centre for Early Music; Morrice Partnership; Music Research Centre; National Music Management

Group; OpenEnded Group; Purple Marketing; Red Sand; Science City York; Touch; Tribeca York; Umol Xsapida; University of York Electronics and Music Departments and Music Research Centre; York St John University; York Theatre Royal.

Spire is the first event in SightSonic's new year-round programme. Bringing leading artists, both national and international, to York, SightSonic is an inspiring mix of art forms created or realised by digital means. SightSonic promotes and showcases divergent artistic events ranging from audio concerts, video and film screenings, gallery and public installations, open-air performances to on-line work, whilst fostering the development of work by new and emergent artists.

Since its first release in 1982, **Touch** has created sonic and visual productions that combine innovation with a level of care and attention that has made it the most enduring of any independent music company of its time.

The first period up to the digitisation of music in the mid-80's saw the release of several cassette magazines, where sounds by luminaries such as New Order, Cabaret Voltaire and The Residents were paralleled by visual work and writing by Neville Brody, Jon Savage, Joseph Beuys and many others. As the industry went through its usual elaborate cycles of self-annihilation and rebirth, Touch adapted to incorporate new technologies with the old, underscoring the power and necessity of editing and presentation to bring the best out of each production.

Now working extensively with Fennesz, Chris Watson, Philip Jeck, Biosphere, Ryoji Ikeda, BJNilsen and many others, Touch celebrated its 20th year in 2001 with a UK CMN-backed tour, including sell-out dates in Brighton, Bristol, Glasgow, Newcastle, Salisbury and the QEH in London. The transitions from analogue to digital, from camera-ready artwork to broadband file-sharing and from 1/4" masters to website downloads are only the surface manifestations of the great changes that have taken place in recorded music over the last 20 years. Touch has been at the forefront of these changes, and will continue to be.

The University of York's annual concert series promotes some 55 events each season, ranging from early music to new music, folk and jazz. As well as bringing international musicians to the city, the series is also a platform for the high standard of performance within the University and its music department.

www.YorkConcerts.co.uk; boxoffice@york.ac.uk