

SONO-ELECTRO PROGRAMME 2024

Sono-Electro is a groundbreaking, 10-day festival dedicated to spotlighting the best in local, national and international sonic artists, and inspiring the people of St Leonards and Hastings to explore and experience the joy and profundity of sound art. 2024 sees the event return to Electro Studios in West St Leonards.

In one year, the festival has skyrocketed from a crowd-funded, four-day festival that brought together a handful of talented local artists into a two-week event supported locally by the likes of Hastings Commons and funded on a national level by the Arts Council.

Local experimental and underground music champions: Sonics Hastings and Sonic storytelling platform: XMTR, are guest curating the line-up for Saturday 21st and Saturday 28th September

FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER - Artists in Residence Showcase

Artists in Residence Showcase

Jem Finer / Marcia Farquhar/ joined by Kitty Finer's Artists Behind Bars

Friday, 20 September 2024

6:30pm

Electro-Studios [\(map\)](#)



The showcase is the culmination of a two-week long Artist in Residency programme at Electro-Studios which will see selected acts develop new directions in their practice through the festival's themes and sharing the same space. Join us on to see the

Since studying computer science in the 1970s, **Jem Finer** has worked in a variety of fields, including photography, film, experimental and popular music, sound recording, sculpture and installation.

An enduring fascination with deep time and space, self-organising systems and long-duration processes has been the impetus behind much of his work including his Artangel commission, Longplayer, a thousand-year-long musical composition playing since the last moments of 1999.

Sono-Electro will see the first public appearance of Jem's Kung Fu Pinball, a pinball machine modified with the assistance of Dominic Robson to auto-compose music. Every hit on the bumpers, triggers, flippers and score wheels plays a sound; no two games are the same. Jem will be working

with Marcia Farquar to create new soundtracks for the machine during their four-day residency at the festival.

Kitty Finer is an artist, song writer and entertainer, she writes and paints by day and comes out at night to sing songs, host bars and entertain.

She is the artist behind 'Artists Behind Bars' - an event she concocted in 2016 which brings together artists who share an interest in spontaneous structures of hospitality and the (part time) role of bartending.

On the 20th September, for one night only, Kitty will be installing and running a bar within her light box 'drinking alley'.

She will be serving cocktails which will be devised and created to celebrate the works made during Jem Finer and Marcia Farquhar's Sono Electro residency.

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER - Sonics Hastings Incubation Day

Panel - Sonics: On Reflection and Looking Onwards

Saturday, 21 September 2024

3:30 pm

Electro-Studios [\(map\)](#)



The event will open at 3pm and the initial part of the day will be set aside for a panel discussion, "Sonics - On Reflection & Looking Onwards" which will include some of the Sonics team and friends of the event from over the years.

Melinda Bronstein

Saturday, 21 September 2024

5pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



"Melinda is an experimental musician based in Margate. She constructs beautiful melancholy atmospheres through improvised vocal drone loops, casiotone, found objects, noises and toyses, finding magic in the mundane.

Her debut album, 'In Reverse' bridges modern composition and ambient pop to experimental electronics and drones, offering ten brooding and ethereal songs exploring loss, hope, conflict and realignment."

SLY AND THE FAMILY DRONE

Saturday, 21 September 2024

LATE

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



The ultimate neo-jazz wreckin' crew...The Quietus describes their shows as "visceral experiences,".....a barrage of electronic noise, booming percussion, and raw, visceral sounds merge into an overwhelming auditory experience, which The Guardian has called "provocative noise that challenges the boundaries of musical experience." The result is a communal and cathartic event that is as unpredictable as it is captivating, leaving a lasting impression of shared, transformative energy....

Café Oto says, "Using only drums and processed cassettes, and incorporating many elements of avant-garde music and sound art in their realisation, Sly & The Family Drone are a primal orchestra of drum rhythms, radiophonic oscillator noise and electronically-abstracted vocals."

!!IT WILL BE LOUD!!EARPLUGS ADVISED!!

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Workshop: LES BIOLOGISTES MARINS

Sunday, 22 September 2024

11am

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



What does water sound like? Les Biologistes Marins craft improvised ambient music integrated with visual material taken from water sources. Using voices, flutes, organ, drums and synth they weave sound layers to immerse themselves and listeners in a “fluid”; ambience.

At Sono-Electro, they will expand into the sea at St Leonards, sharing the experience with their audience, and using Pauline Oliveros’ Deep Listening techniques to tune in to water, amplified using mics and using the backdrop of the Hastings and St Leonards coastline to inspire them.

All levels of experience are welcome. Please bring a recording object, a phone is perfect.

Neolithic Cannibals

Sunday, 22 September 2024

2pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



Join us at Sono-Electro for a multi speaker playback presentation by artist Simon James, featuring *Neolithic Cannibals*, a compelling sound art piece created by young artists from the Whitehawk Estate, Brighton. Across six workshops the school children explored field recording, synthesiser and feedback experiments using chalk graphic scores, vocal improvisation, and acoustic sounding, with the resulting work becoming a multi speaker sound installation at Lighthouse Project Space in May. This event not only showcases their creative talents but also highlights the social aims and impact of the project.

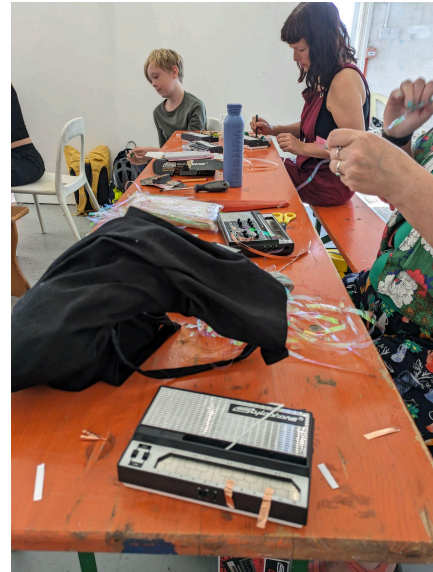
Neolithic Cannibals draws inspiration from the rich archaeological heritage of Whitehawk exploring themes of the hidden and unheard whilst weaving together the ancient and contemporary landscapes of the area. The name itself was inspired by the derogatory language used by archaeologist Cecil Curwen in his hasty appraisal of early Whitehawk residents' dietary habits. James chose this name to echo the kind of stigma often directed at communities like Whitehawk by those in privileged positions.

The event will begin with a playback of the *Neolithic Cannibals* soundscape; textures, shapes, and patterns that resonate with thousands of years of Whitehawk's history. From the sharp cracks and scrapes of Neolithic flint knapping to the deep resonant tones of early 20th-century geophysical techniques, *Neolithic Cannibals* is the sound of communities connecting across thousands of years through listening.

Following the playback, Simon James will engage in a conversation with festival director James Wilkie, discussing the creative process and the social significance of the project and its connection to the Class Divide Campaign for fairer education. This dialogue will explore how the young sound artists from Whitehawk, a community often unheard and stigmatised, have created a powerful contemporary artefact challenging stereotypes and inviting conversations about education inequality and the role we all play in creating a fairer society.

**Audiotrope Stylophone Workshop
for 12-25 year-olds led by Orson Coupland of
CRUNCHY BAT**

**Sunday, 22 September 2024
3pm
Electro-Studios [\(map\)](#)**



Ever experimented with a Stylophone? The pocket synthesiser has been a cult favourite since 1968, used by artists from Bowie to Kraftwerk, Blondie to Orbital. Every attendee gets a free Stylophone. This is an opportunity for young musicians to network and meet mentors, to be inspired and help Audiotrope see what they can do for them in future and more.

Orson is the front man of **CRUNCHY BAT** - a loud and chaotic mishmash band renowned in and around the Ore Village area. He will lead a workshop where you, the attendee, learn how to (and indeed how not to) jam and perform with others, using a stylophone synthesiser. A stylo-synth, brand new, that is yours to keep at the end of the session!

Nnenna Maxine Odumodu AKA fmax

**Sunday, 22 September 2024
3:30 pm
Electro-Studios [\(map\)](#)**



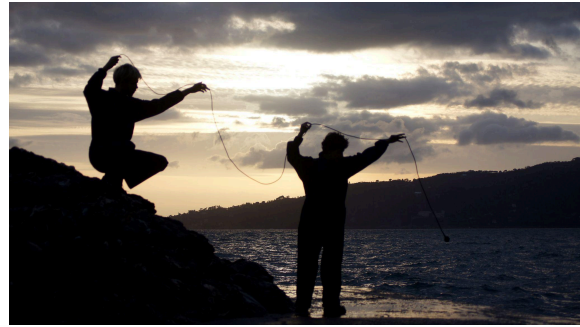
A Nigerian-born, London-based, multidisciplinary artist, with a current focus on spoken word and textile art, fmax's innovative practice is deeply rooted in the art of Journaling. Her work seamlessly blends spoken word with experimental melodies, synths and the power of her voice. Her performance at Sono-Electro will include a screening of spoken-word film Imagine, a live instrumental session with flute, interwoven with crochet art.

LES BIOLOGISTES MARINS

Sunday, 22 September 2024

5pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



Les Biologistes Marins craft improvised ambient music integrated with visual material taken from water sources. Using voices, flutes, organ, drums and synth they weave sound layers to immerse themselves and listeners in a “fluid” ambience.

FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER - Artists in Residence Showcase

BENJAMIN PHILLIPS//ANAM CARA

Friday, 27 September 2024

6:30pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



The showcase is the culmination of a two-week long Artist in Residency programme at Electro-Studios which will see selected acts develop new directions in their practice through the festival's themes and sharing the same space. Join us on to see the

Benjamin Phillips will combine his audio work and visual language to create an installation that contemplates the collaboration between parent and child in the pursuit of creativity and happiness, work that expresses a full spectrum of the dynamic and experience of the parent and child relationship.

Anam Cara (sol + James Alec Hardy) is a multidisciplinary practice that combines research, curation, and creative production. Inspired by the eponymous Celtic tradition, they cultivate kinship and profound connections between physical and digital spaces through audio works and spatial explorations. They have created site-specific sound art, performed 3D spatial audio works, brought together collaborators in online music events, and constructed digital twins of music community

spaces, urban landscapes and hidden heritage buildings to fabricate whole new worlds in metaverses.

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER - XMTR Incubation Day

SOUND HOPPERS Children's Workshop

Saturday, 28 September 2024
10:30 - 11:55
Electro Studios ([map](#))
[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



A sound exploration and deep-listening workshop for children aged between 5-11 years old.

The sessions aim to encourage attentive deep listening by way of a series of gamified listening exercises that explore various aspects of sound delivered by Modus Arts / Wajid Yaseen

Listen, Play, Experiment: Voices of Water with Lucinda Guy & Alice Armstrong (Stellaria Media)

Saturday, 28 September 2024
12:00 13:45
Electro Studios ([map](#))
[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Workshop / Hydrophones / Outside and Inside - Connected to Blue Heart Project Eastbourne
Listen, Play, Experiment: Voices of Water Come to a creative workshop where we will record our voices and underwater sounds. Together we will make a collective, ever changing, long-form sound installation and broadcast. No experience required.

Doorways - Phoebe McIndoe (Installation)

Saturday, 28 September 2024

12:00 16:00

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



This interactive exhibition space invites you to reflect on the concept of home and what it means to you, viewed through the lens of your front door.

Safe + Sound Installation

Saturday, 28 September 2024

12:00 17:00

Electro Studios (Bathing Pool Green)

([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Step inside the safe + sound booth overlooking the sea outside Electro Studios. Rest up, take a seat, and immerse yourself in a collection of audio and visual pieces, all taking inspiration from adrienne maree brown's writing on murmurations. Guided by simple rules, starling murmurations can react to their environment as a group without a central leader orchestrating their choices; in any instant, any part of the flock can transform the movement of the whole flock. What can we learn from this as humans in community with each other?

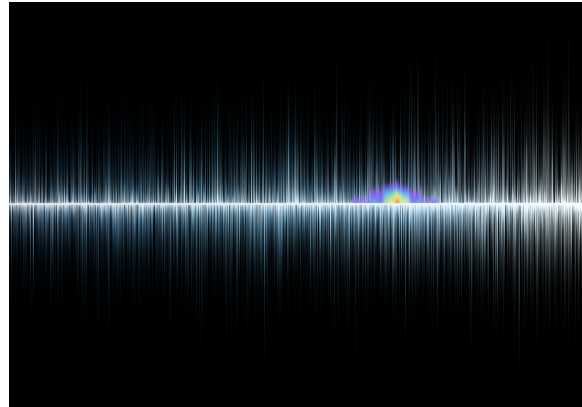
Things You Don't Hear at Podcast Conferences- Listening followed by Conversation

Saturday, 28 September 2024

14:00 15:30

Royal Victoria Hotel ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Lina Prestwood (founder of Scenery Studios) will be sharing a collage of voices from an international roster of podcast producers. Followed by an informal conversation hosted by Lucia Scazzocchio (Social Broadcasts/XMTR) about how we can make creative audio and make a living!

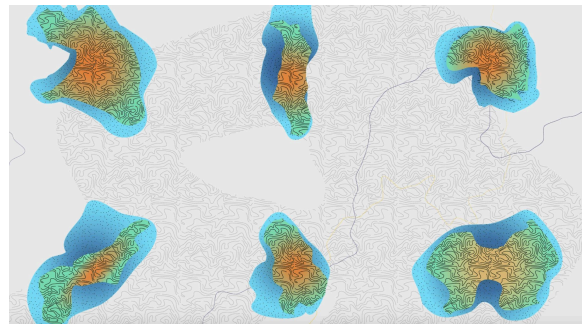
Radio Commons - Listening Island

Saturday, 28 September 2024

15:00 15:30

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



A curated listening island from Radio Commons - an online platform for audio interventions, a sonic archipelago co-authored by a remote collective of artists and cultural workers.

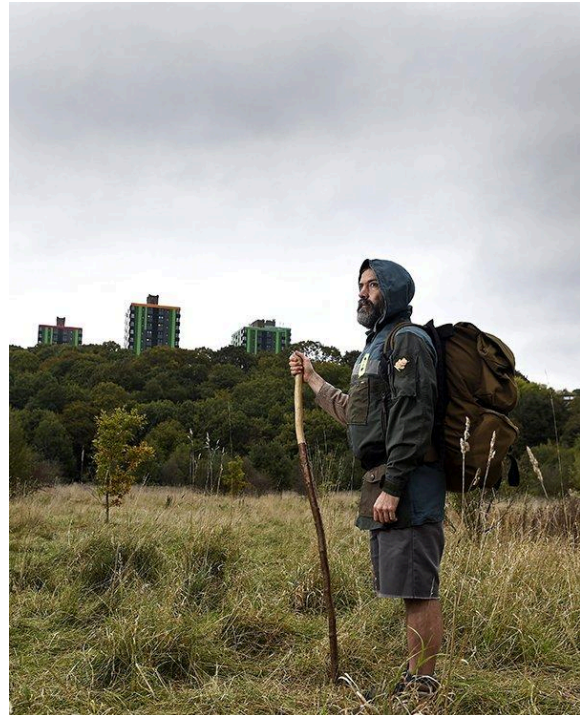
The Book of Visions - Ian Nesbitt

Saturday, 28 September 2024

15:30 16:00

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Socially engaged artist Ian Nesbitt's practice spans filmmaking, writing, broadcasting and walking. In 2022, he completed a pilgrimage on foot along the Old Way, a recently unearthed Mediaeval pilgrim route from Southampton to Canterbury, passing close by St. Leonards-on-Sea. For Transmitter, he presents a performance reading of a selection of his writing based on the experience, enhanced by slides and field recordings, inviting the audience into a state of deep listening.

Text Sound Art - Then/Before

Saturday, 28 September 2024

16:00 16:30

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



'Then Before' presents sound artist Wajid Yaseen's response to a series of three poems by three poets – Shamshad Khan, Jack Underwood and Alice Kemp.

Ieva Dubova & Jude Montague: Live Performance

Saturday, 28 September 2024
17:00 18:00
Electro Studios ([map](#))
[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Ieva Dubova and Jude Montague will be exploring the ancient music and folk poetry traditions of Latvia with a modern non-traditional sensibility and using improvisation, deep listening and gestural interaction. And like in the UK, this is harvest time.

Dinahbird - Goldlines

Saturday, 28 September 2024
18:30 19:15
Electro Studios ([map](#))
[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



Super High Frequency radio waves, signal noise and field recording recorded at the base of antennas between Chicago and New York, London and Frankfurt. High-frequency trading (HFT) uses complex algorithms to analyse multiple markets and execute orders. In trading vocabulary a signal is a pattern of data that influences these algorithms, inciting them to buy or sell shares or cancel an order. Since 2016 Bird and Renoult have been mapping these radio routes by finding the pylons, frequencies and relay links that transmit HFT data back and forth, in loops that cover the Earth.

Fari Bradley - Live Performance

Saturday, 28 September 2024

19:30 20:15

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



With a history of live, broadcast and prerecorded collaborations, Bradley is a member of London noise-improv quartet Oscillatorial Binnage since 2013, [who released the album Agitations: Post-Electronic Noise on Sub Rosa](#)). As sound art duo Bradley-Weaver, Bradley released a limited edition artist-vinyl record with sound artist and archivist Christopher John Weaver with whom she has collaborated since 2013. The experimental vinyl Systems for a Score [released on The Vinyl! Factory, UK](#), was made during a live installation of a full size recording studio, for their eponymous solo show at Tashkeel (Dubai), 2014.

Life Sentence: Ed Baxter & Anthony Moore - Live Radio Art Performance

Saturday, 28 September 2024

20:30 21:30

Electro Studios ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



In The Ninth Bridgewater Treatise (1837) the Victorian polymath Charles Babbage suggested that "The air itself is one vast library. One, on whose pages are forever written all that woman or man has ever said or whispered." This thought is the basis of Anthony Moore's composition "Hello, this is a sentence" on a live performance of which this digressive and deconstructionist broadcast by Anthony and Ed Baxter is in turn based. Life Sentence explores the way in which words both enter the memory of the hearer and continue into the air and addresses the mode of half listening that applies to the medium of radio.

SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER - Sonos Sphere

In The Beginning - Live Children's Storytelling Workshop and Performance

Sun, 29 Sep 2024
10:30 11:30
Electro Studios ([map](#))
[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)



In The Beginning... is a collection of creation stories from around the world, adapted and dramatised for audio as an immersive listening experience for children (and adults!). Participate in a live radio drama bringing two of these stories to life with actors Hawa Khan and Pablo McFee and live percussion, sound effects and audience participation. Suitable for 4-11 year olds

Stylophone Workshop led by Alex Giles

Sunday, 29 September 2024
2pm
Hastings Commons / OBX ([map](#))



Ever experimented with a Stylophone? The pocket synthesiser has been a cult favourite since 1968, used by artists from Bowie to Kraftwerk, Blondie to Orbital. Every attendee gets a free Stylophone. This is an opportunity for young musicians to network and meet mentors, to be inspired and help Audiotrope see what they can do for them in future and more.

Pablo Mcfee

Sunday, 29 September 2024

2pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



A 'Simple Story' is an adapted devised work in the form of an 'Audio Mosaic' that reflects elements of the Performing Industry.

The performance art piece is inspired by works such as 'Not I.' (Samuel Beckett), comic book storytelling(2000AD) and Science fiction Soundscapes.

Pablo laughs an awful lot/Driven by a childhood urge to ignite /Emotion/Finding himself being chosen to develop/His short story into a BBC radio play along/With three school friends, a lifelong relationship/Began with the tools of storytelling/Dancing, Singing and acting his way through/Italia Conti Stage School as well as stints with Half Moon Theatre and L'Ouverture Theatre. Pablo, with the guidance of fantastic Artists found himself not only releasing early ideas through Esoteric Records but also working alongside other underground artists and appearing on West End Stages acting and Ibiza Clubs singing/After a very short lived tour in Hollywood he returned to England's South Coast and co-founded Respond Academy Youth Arts. In 2015 he returned to the music scene he loves and Collaborated with Tris Taylor (BenBo) on his Pink Lizard Label/Pablo continues to release new ideas independently and with the odd acting role Seeks to keep 'Doing This Work'.

The Alchemy of Sound - Sound Apothecary

Sunday, 29 September 2024

3:30pm

Electro-Studios ([map](#))



The Alchemy of Sound – The Sound Apothecary

Ancient civilizations understood the power of sound and its effect on the psyche and physical body with structures such as the Mayan and Egyptian pyramids, Hal Saflieni Hypogeum in Malta and New Grange in Ireland constructed to consolidate a particular landmark, amplify sound during ceremonial rituals and as chambers for intricate forms of sound healing. Modern day sound therapy is a ripple set in motion centuries ago in Ancient Greece by Pythagoras in the mystery schools of Delphi, where he created the theory of the musical intervals and their affect, conducting what he called “soul adjustments” to tune the spirit and body to harmony.

The electro studios gallery will be transformed into a sonic chamber of our own in St Leonards for this deep immersion of sound.

You are invited to enter The Sound Apothecary for "Alchemy of Sound" a sonic journey into the low frequency bass tones of the frame drum and the higher frequency musical intervals of 99.9 quartz singing bowls, composed to entrain the mind to the Theta brainwaves and activate the parasympathetic nervous system, the domains of the subconscious, deep trance and altered states of consciousness.

We will open the evening with a dose of pure ceremonial cacao, which due to its potent effect on blood flow to the heart and brain may enhance perception and deepen the experience. The Sound Apothecary is a concept created by Maria Christofi, a graduate of The British Academy of Sound to represent the exploration and effects of sound. Maria is a certified practitioner of sound therapy and Chinese Medicine with 20 years of clinical practice and a special interest in the integration of ancient mythology and practices, plant medicine and sound with performance.

Previous events include the sell out "Call of the Jaguar" at Hastings Museum, Coastal Currents Arts Festival, Hastings Botanical Garden festival and A Curious Agenda's annual festival.

Maria is also a contributor to publications such as Ignota and Wild Alchemy Lab and you can read her article "Alchemy of Sound" in the Air edition of the Wild Alchemy Journal available online or locally at Tadhg Mae Projects in Hastings Old Town.

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Blanc Sceol

Sunday, 29 September 2024

5:30pm

Electro-Studios [\(map\)](#)



Photo Credit: Titouan Massé, New Trad Fest

Join Blanc Sceol (Stephen Shiell & Hannah White) for a deep sonic relaxation session to mark the sunset and the close of Sono Electro festival. Working with the unique harmonic frequencies of the Orbit, a ten stringed self-created instrument, Blanc Sceol will guide you into a gentle state of rest, opening space for release and healing vibrations, with a focus on deep listening and ecological attunement to your immediate surroundings and distant planetary movements.

Orbit is a decagon shaped instrument played by two musicians simultaneously. The body is spun by one set of hands, as the other hands hold a bow to the ten strings. As the two musicians work together the Orbit leads them into a cosmos of dynamic, pitch-shifting drones and harmonic rhythms, invoking lunar cycles and planetary time signatures.

The dynamic of the musicians working intuitively to capture the mysterious notes and harmonies that arise from the Orbit creates a harmonious atmosphere that can lead to deep and transformative experiences for the listeners.

Orbit is an incarnation of Walter Smetak's Ronda and Uakti's 'Torre', created by Blanc Sceol in partnership with Kai Tönjes.