



The Expanded Instruments Project

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: **5pm, 1st September 2017**

Summary

Quiet Music Ensemble invites proposals from artists **in any discipline** for new works that focus on the idea of expanding or altering the capabilities of musical instruments through physical or electronic means. On the basis of these proposals, two artists will be selected to collaborate closely with QME on their works, and will also take part in a workshop on instrument hacking with renowned Sound Artist Mick O'Shea. The artists' works will be publicly workshopped with the celebrated composer/installation artist Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, and premiered at two special events in Dublin and another city in Ireland.

How to Submit Your Proposal

Please submit:

- an outline of your idea, explaining both the technical and artistic bases for it (c. 1,500 words).
- a description of the anticipated method of completion.
- a CV or bio.
- a short passage outlining how you feel your prior experience and/or aesthetic suits the project.
- a short passage outlining how you feel your proposed idea suits QME's aesthetic.
- a URL pointing to your portfolio of work, as described below.

The above should be collated into a single pdf document and emailed before 5pm, 1st September 2017 to qmeexpandedinstruments@gmail.com

In addition, please supply **up to three examples of your previous work**, especially those that have some relationship to the proposed idea. Please use the following formats:

- audio recordings should be supplied as .wav, .aiff or .mp3 only
- videos only in .mp4, quicktime, Windows Media Player formats
- visual art: please supply a pdf document with photographs and, optionally, text
- Computer programmes: should run without the installation of additional software on Mac OS X (Yosemite).
- other materials as appropriate.

Upload these materials to a cloud service such as Dropbox and supply a URL pointing to the location in your proposal (as described above).

MORE DETAILS

Introduction

In recent years, QME developed a close relationship with renowned composer/improviser Pauline Oliveros, who passed away in November 2016. She developed what she called the "Expanded Instrument System", the idea being to use electronics to bring capabilities into her playing that her accordion couldn't provide. Her system was first built around analog effects, and was later transferred into the digital domain. In 2013, Oliveros composed *The Mystery Beyond Matter* for QME, which employs aspects of her EIS for all the instrumentalists of the band.

As part of our ongoing celebration of her work, we are running "The Expanded Instrument Project", which is about pieces that are centred around the concept of extending the capabilities of instruments either in the digital domain or through physical intervention/hacking/rebuilding. Cage's *Prepared Piano* is an early example of the latter, but in more recent times composers have worked with the idea that an instrument can be expanded by discovering new ways to coax sound from it, such as inducing vibration in an instrument's body by attaching transducers. Importantly, these 'interventions' are sculptural as much as they are sonic; in fact, work created this way can have overlaps with Sound Art and installations. Part of this project will include a new work by Greek composer Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, whose beautiful instrumental works approach the instruments in this way.

Call for Proposals for Works

Quiet Music Ensemble invites proposals for new works for QME that are based around the idea of expanding instruments as described above. Proposals may come from an early-career artist OF ANY DISCIPLINE who feels that a collaboration with a music performing group like QME could be beneficial: this call is open to composers of music, sound artists, visual artists, videographers, theatre practitioners, those who programme computers for artistic purposes and any others whose practice might be considered relevant. It is important to note that QME's practice derives from interdisciplinary experimental arts, and the group does not consider itself solely engaged with 'music' in the conventional sense.

Two proposals will be selected for further development. The artists selected will:

- work closely with QME Director John Godfrey in developing their idea.
- take part in two workshops with Sound Artist Mick O'Shea (*Quiet Club*, *Strange Attractor*, *Sonic Vigil*, *The Domestic Godless*, *The Guesthouse*), whose practice is based around hacked and newly built instruments, both physical and electronic. The workshops will explore ways to build and/or hack instruments.
- publicly workshop their pieces with Quiet Music Ensemble and Marianthi.
- receive two public performances of their works, one in Dublin and one in another city tbc.
- receive an archive of the whole process, hosted on QME's website.

What you gain

The successful proposers will gain an unparalleled experience working very closely with a number of artists who are professionals in cutting-edge sonic practices. The idea outlined here - a kind of hybrid of concepts such as a piece of music, a living sculpture, a sound art installation and a multimedia event - explores

exciting new ground that is rarely seen in Ireland, but is a significant area of new practice around the world. It will be a learning experience not only for you, but for all those involved. This project also offers a unique opportunity for an artist who does not think of themselves as a 'composer' to explore a new area.

You will receive a public workshop and two public performances in cities around the country, but you should also note that QME typically repeats works in its repertoire many times: we believe in getting to know our pieces extremely well - not just performing them once. A successful work for QME has a very long lifespan and may be performed abroad as well as in Ireland.

About QME

Quiet Music Ensemble is a Cork-based Experimental Music group, founded in 2008 and led by composer and performer John Godfrey. The group consists of some of the top solo and chamber performers in the country: John Godfrey, founder/ director/electric guitar; Seán Mac Erlaine, clarinets; Roddy O'Keefe, trombone; Ilse De Ziah, cello; Dan Bodwell, double bass; Alexis Nealon, sound engineer. It draws its repertoire from diverse artistic sources, including composers of music, sound artists and visual artists, and specialises in improvisation, guided or free. It performs in unconventional spaces and contexts, and specialises in extended performances.

Creating a piece for QME is not like composing music for a conventional musical group, not even one dedicated to New Music. QME has a very precise aesthetic and an extraordinary ability with free or guided improvisation; working with QME is an ongoing and continually developing collaboration, rather than the production of a fixed score. QME is at home in many kinds of radical music — from the intensely focussed minimalism of Lucier to the busy and theatrical work of Jennifer Walshe; from the exploration of so-called silence to a deep focus on sound through extended instrumental techniques — but it eschews the hierarchies we associate with classical music. QME's aesthetic is about creativity for all collaborators in the experience — composer/facilitating artist, performer, listener — and focusses on opening our ears *outward* rather than using sound as a vehicle for self-expression. The word 'quiet' in its name is intended to conjure both the sense of hushed and of peaceful; its music is a restrained meditation on sound itself.

When considering your proposal, it is important to bear in mind the qualities and the sound-worlds of QME's repertoire to date, although we would welcome proposals that treat both iconoclastically. You are welcome to discuss your ideas with John Godfrey or Anna Murray (or any other member of the band!) before submitting them.

John Godfrey
Artistic Director, Quiet Music Ensemble

Contact information

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Anna Murray anna.m.murray@gmail.com

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