Performance

Title: Production of: Foghorn Requiem

Creators: Autogena, L., Portway, J., Gough, O. and Hollinshead, R.


Official URL: http://foghornrequiem.org

Note: Audience leaflet

http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/6072/
FOGHORN REQUIEM

Foghorn Requiem is a performance, marking the disappearance of the sound of the foghorn from the UK’s coastal landscape. Fifty-five brass players and more than fifty vessels will gather at South Shields to perform to mark the disappearance of the sound of the foghorn.

The sound of a distant foghorn has always connected the land and the sea, a melancholy, friendly call that we receive from childhood - a sound that has always felt like a memory. The sound of the foghorn is uniquely shaped by the landscape through which it travels. Very few sounds are so loud, and heard at such great distances.

In the performance sounds will be affected by distance, weather, and landscape, and so we have avoided using any kind of amplification. The intention is to create a landscape of sound that uses live atmospheric data to continuously calculate and communicate with the other ships and the musicians on board. The process may sound like a procession of voices, but ships’ horns aren’t designed as musical instruments. To allow them to play conventional musical scales and disorientating, sometimes melancholic, sometimes warm and sentimental, and sometimes fierce.

The sound of a distant foghorn has always connected the land and the sea; a conversation between land and sea. Like the sea itself, this music is sometimes queasy through which it travels. Very few sounds are so loud, and heard at such great distances.

In an era when foghorns are being decommissioned around Britain’s coasts due to satellite global positioning systems, the Foghorn Requiem celebrates the passing of the foghorn, celebrating the landscape, the sea, and the life of the piece. A raucous, kick-out-the-jams sound of a shipyard.

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The spirit of the foghorn is a Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University. Foghorn Requiem is a performance, marking the disappearance of the sound of the foghorn from the UK’s coastal landscape. Fifty-five brass players and more than fifty vessels will gather at South Shields to perform to mark the disappearance of the sound of the foghorn.

For Foghorn Requiem we wanted to create a piece of music that incorporated a whole landscape, but which was also a musical performance. New technology will allow the ships several miles offshore to play music together with musicians on shore, a gathering of these of the historical brass bands of the North East. In the performance sounds will be affected by distance, weather, and landscape, and so we have avoided using any kind of amplification. The intention is to create a landscape of sound that uses live atmospheric data to continuously calculate and communicate with the other ships and the musicians on board. The process may sound like a procession of voices, but ships’ horns aren’t designed as musical instruments. To allow them to play conventional musical scales and disorientating, sometimes melancholic, sometimes warm and sentimental, and sometimes fierce.

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**RESOURCES VESSELS**

**RY PRINCESS ROYAL**

A Damen 4108 fishing vessel, 140 feet, built in 1992 in Holland, she was designed for deep water trawling, dredging, and charter work.

**SOUTH EASTERN GULF**

A North Sea fishing vessel, 120 feet, built in 1984 in Germany, she is equipped with a hydraulic stern winch and a hydraulic rudder.

**NORTH EASTERN GULF**

A Damen 4108 fishing vessel, 140 feet, built in 1992 in Holland, she was designed for deep water trawling, dredging, and charter work.

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**PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES**

The Northumbria Police Marine Unit is supported by the Byker Community Action Team, which works to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Byker.

**BYKER BELLE**

A wooden open boat, 24 feet, built in 1952, she was designed for fishing in the North Sea.

**HEALTH & SAFETY VESSELS**

A number of local and regional organisations are working together to support health and safety initiatives in the marine environment, as well as promoting an understanding of the importance of the sea.

**NORTHUMBRIA**

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**HISTORIC VESSELS**

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