



Emma Smith
5Hz & Euphonia

SAT 6 APR - SUN 19 MAY 2019

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Emma Smith: 5Hz & Euphonia

The sounds we make to connect to one another is the focus of a new exhibition by artist Emma Smith, bringing together two works – *5Hz* and *Euphonia*.

Our gallery is transformed by a series of sound installations: *5Hz* which is centred around the invention of a new singing language that transcends language barriers; and *Euphonia*, an interactive sound work that attunes itself to the voices of visitors.

This exhibition is part of a partnership with Primary in Nottingham and Wysing Arts Centre in Cambridge to bring the work of Emma Smith to the three cities.

Supported by Arts Council England's strategic touring fund.

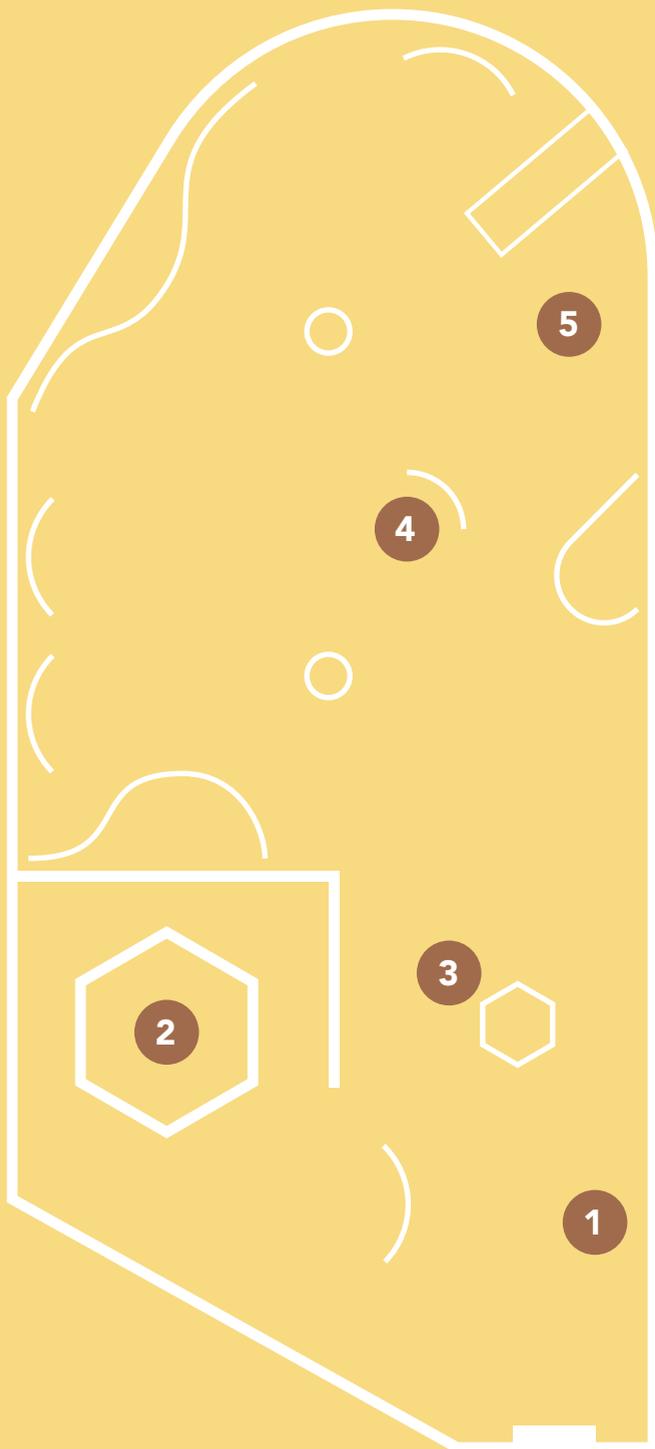


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Gallery Map



1: 5Hz Language Paintings

2: 5Hz Language Booth

3: The Mephistophone

4: Euphonia

5: Workshop Space

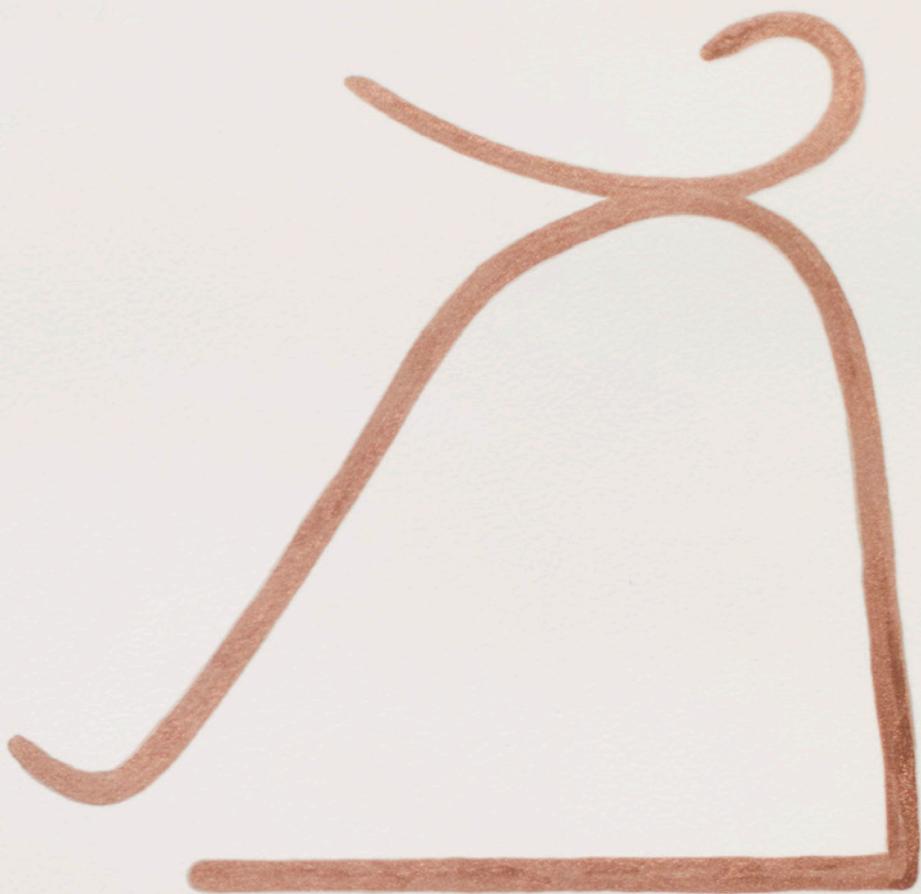
5Hz

5Hz offers an audio guide and visual orthography to a new singing language designed to strengthen social connections. Developed through a year-long research process examining psychological and neurological responses to the human voice, the 5Hz language comprises a set of sounds that transcend language barriers.

Emma Smith's new human language is made up of three components: an alphabet, syllabary and glides, which can be combined in any way you like.

Step into the language booth, pick up the guide and start using the language within 15 mins. The language's unique symbols are also featured as paintings around *Euphonia's* Mephistophone.





næ (na)

Euphonia

Euphonia is an interactive eight speaker sound installation based on the music we make subconsciously when chatting socially. Extracted from conversations of chit-chat and harmonious debate, this interactive sound work attunes itself to your voice when you visit.

The score for *Euphonia* is a composite of conversations in many languages and includes dialogue between people of all ages, including adult, teenage, toddler and baby interactions, transcribed into musical form.

The pre-recorded sound work retains the two directional nature of social interaction by enabling you to influence and alter the score through speaking into the microphone, with 2200 years' worth of possible variations available.

This work was developed following co-research with a team of world experts in psychology, music and the brain with whom Smith ran experiments to test the human ability to understand the nuances of positive or negative conversation across language barriers through the musical nature of speech.



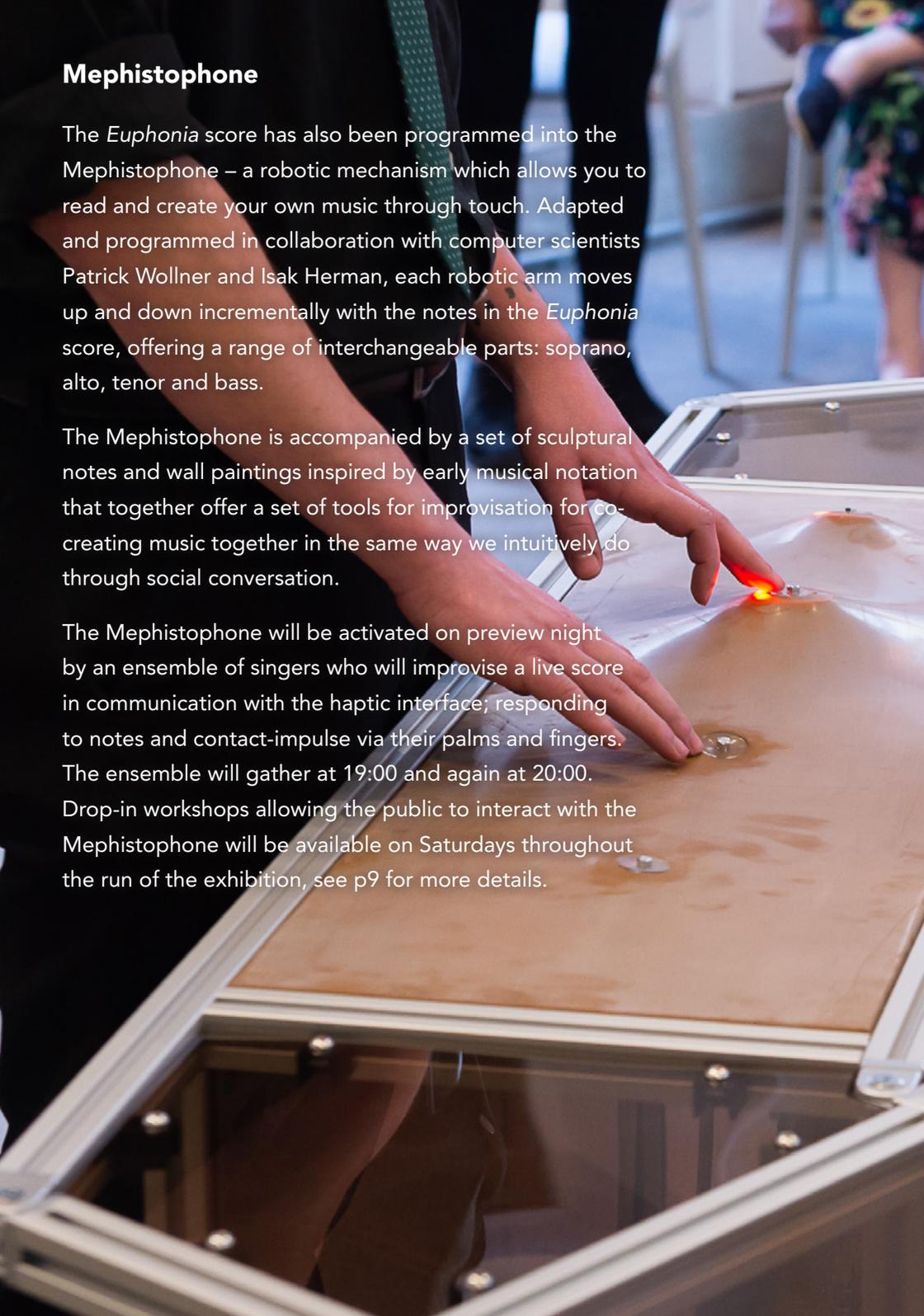


Mephistophone

The *Euphonia* score has also been programmed into the Mephistophone – a robotic mechanism which allows you to read and create your own music through touch. Adapted and programmed in collaboration with computer scientists Patrick Wollner and Isak Herman, each robotic arm moves up and down incrementally with the notes in the *Euphonia* score, offering a range of interchangeable parts: soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

The Mephistophone is accompanied by a set of sculptural notes and wall paintings inspired by early musical notation that together offer a set of tools for improvisation for co-creating music together in the same way we intuitively do through social conversation.

The Mephistophone will be activated on preview night by an ensemble of singers who will improvise a live score in communication with the haptic interface; responding to notes and contact-impulse via their palms and fingers. The ensemble will gather at 19:00 and again at 20:00. Drop-in workshops allowing the public to interact with the Mephistophone will be available on Saturdays throughout the run of the exhibition, see p9 for more details.





Events

Preview

Fri 5 Apr, 18:00

Join us for our opening night preview, influence the soundscape using your own voice and learn a new alphabet that transcends language barriers. The Mephistophone will be activated on the night by an ensemble of singers who will improvise a live score in communication with the haptic interface; responding to notes and contact-impulse via their palms and fingers. The ensemble will gather at 19:00 and again at 20:00.

Artist & Curator Tour

Sat 6 Apr, 14:00

Join artist Emma Smith and curator Bren O'Callaghan to discuss our new sound installation.

Mephistophone Workshops

Sat 6, 13, 20 & 27 Apr and 4, 11 & 18 May. 15:00 - 17:00

FREE, drop in / all ages welcome

Drop-in workshops allowing the public to interact with the Mephistophone will be available on Saturdays throughout the run of the exhibition, from 15:00 until 17:00. No prior musical experience is required, only willingness to participate.



If you don't want to keep me,
please return to an invigilator or recycle me!

Credits

5Hz was created in collaboration with Dr Laurence White (now Newcastle University) following research with Dr Nina Kazanina and Dr. Emma Hornby (University of Bristol).

Euphonia was developed in collaboration with Professor Robin Dunbar (University of Oxford), Professor Ian Cross (University of Cambridge) and Professor Lauren Stewart (Goldsmiths, University of London). The score was recorded with The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge.

The artist would like to thank the many members of the public who contributed to the making of these works as well as the community groups and choirs who supported its research.

5Hz was originally commissioned for Arnolfini, Bristol, 2015, and *Euphonia* for Bluecoat Liverpool 2018, supported by the Wellcome Trust.

About the artist

Emma Smith has a social based practice and creates large scale installations and performances through research and collaboration. She is based in the UK and works internationally. Recent exhibitions / performances include: *The Whistling Orchestra* at Temple Contemporary, Philadelphia USA (2019); *Wunderblock* at Freud Museum London UK (2019); *We* at The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge UK (2019); *5Hz* at Primary, Nottingham UK (2018-19); *Euphonia* at Bluecoat, Liverpool UK (2018); alongside group shows at Hauser & Wirth Somerset (2018); Kettle's Yard, Cambridge (2018) and touring exhibition *material / rearranged / to / be* with Siobhan Davies Dance that premiered at the Barbican before touring to Whitworth Manchester, Bluecoat Liverpool, and Tramway Glasgow UK (2017). Previous projects include commissions for Art on the Underground, London (2017), Tate Exchange, London (2017), MAAS, Sydney Australia (2017), Delfina Foundation, London (2016), B-A-U, Italy (2016), Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2015), and Arnolfini, Bristol (2015), among many others.

emma-smith.com

DAVID LYNCH: MY HEAD IS DISCONNECTED

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Part of **Manchester International Festival**

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Photograph by Josh Teiles

Commissioned and produced by HOME and Manchester International Festival in association with the David Lynch Foundation UK

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