



THE **BIG** LOCKDOWN MUSIC SURVEY

EAST

CURATED BY

STAPLEFORD
GRANARY

ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION





The Big Lockdown Music Survey

Funded with Arts Council England National Lottery Project funding, The Big Lockdown Music Survey is a snapshot in recorded music of a once-in-a-generation experience shared by the nation.

The Big Lockdown Music Survey tells the story of the first national lockdown introduced in England on 23 March 2020 from the perspective of music creators, through recorded music and sound, data and testimony. The survey is an account of exceptional personal circumstances, of emotions engendered by enforced isolation (or enforced community), but also of creativity, technical innovation, personal resilience, and originality.

Tracks have been selected and curated by six regional Gateway Partners comprised of cultural and music centres to create album-length selections of music; there are six music 'albums' in total representing music created all over England. NMC's Gateway Partner organisations are Psappha (North), Birmingham Record Company (Midlands), Spitalfields Music (Greater London), Stapleford Granary (East), October House Records (South East), and Bristol Beacon (South West).

Note from the Curator

We were pleased to be invited to take part in this project and all the submitted pieces sparked a lot of thought and conversation. It was through listening to the submissions that we were able to develop our criteria for selection. Firstly, that we should be able to recommend the music as a positive listening experience; and secondly that the resulting choice should be in some way representative of 'the sound of lockdown'. We wanted to select pieces where lockdown was a tangible creative force, enabling us to give more credit to novel ways of working. Our chosen tracks appealed to us for their economy, clear identity and sincerity of expression.

Stapleford Granary

The left side of the image features a solid orange background. Overlaid on this is a faint, light-colored map of the East Angles region, showing the coast and major roads. Several location pins, also in a light orange color, are placed at various points on the map, likely indicating the locations of the artists or the events mentioned in the tracklisting.

EAST tracklisting

Caged Bird

Alison Berry

Fenella Humphreys *violin*

Diabolical Dance

Peter Facer

Ed Cohen *piano*

CMPFR-22c_Decade6

Rob Godman

Emma Shafer *text and narration*

Lennox Helmeid *narration*

Rob Godman *sound*

Flowers

Catherine Mole

Joe Spinoza *piano*

Of the Earth

Adam Protz

Adam Protz *piano*

The Harp of Wales

David John Roche

David John Roche *guitar*

CMPFR-22c_Decade6

When the opportunity presented itself, we traversed to the Field. I wish we could have gone sooner.

I am a Greenskeeper.
My apprenticeship takes twenty years to complete. Twenty-five for most.
I am in year Twelve.

It is a privilege
To caretake this sacred land.

Once the fires
The floods
Extraordinary temperatures
Unpredictable ice
Led to daily destruction,
We devised a way to protect the ecosystems that were succumbing to
humanity's disasters.
Glasshouses.

Large scale Impenetrable Magnificent Glasshouses

They are utilized for many ecosystems.
I am a Greenskeeper in a Field Glasshouse. Ten Prairie Fields are preserved.

I know I wasn't supposed to.
I know what the penalty would be
And I know I shouldn't be telling you now.

It is illegal to linger in a Glasshouse alone. We work in no less than pairs.
Latex gloves coat our hands.
Leather boots confine our feet.

The Ceremony in how we tend the Field is Stifled,
Unromantic,
Scientific.

Our manta:
"We protect the Field." "We serve the Field." "We keep the Field alive."

"I do not wish to stir feathers." Yet...

It's a clear night No smoke
Or smog
A rarity

No one enters the Field at night.
We know the penalty of unnecessary entrance.

Outside the Glasshouses There are trees to breathe, Water to drink,
Food to eat,

We have enough.

But...
it's far from flourishing.

I find myself outside the Glasshouse.

I slip off my boots
Tuck worn socks inside

I open the door. Sweet smells. Stillness.
This land is holy.

I recall a line from an ancient story I read in the Daily,

"He danced through the grass, Gloriously alive."

So...
I dance!

My naked fingers wander the Bluestem Prairie grasses My body consumes the Field

To love so deeply and fully But never embrace
And now I can TOUCH her Now I can FEEL her

I pluck a violet as I
Find my way to the ground Laying on my back
I look up
The stars meet my eyes

The violet feels like rubbery paper. (A realization) Huh.

And I just lay And lay
And lay
And lay
And lay (repeat as desired)
(speak if desired)

On my Land.
In my Field.
I am finally home.

© Emma Schafer

GATEWAY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Psappha
North



Birmingham Record Co.
Midlands



Spitalfields Music
Greater London



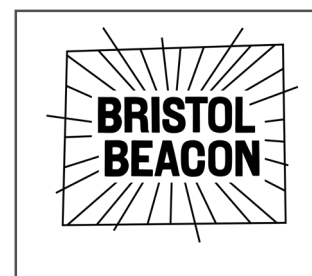
Stapleford Granary
East



October House Records
South East



Bristol Beacon
South West



DATA PARTNER ORGANISATION



PRiSM is the Centre for Practice & Research in Science & Music based at Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. It is directed by composer, Emily Howard, mathematician, Marcus du Sautoy, and computer scientist David De Roure. Funded by Research England, PRiSM '...takes a lead in interdisciplinary and reflexive research between the creative arts and sciences, with a view to making a real contribution to society, to developing new digital technology, and to addressing fundamental questions about what it is to be human and creative today.'

Bofan Ma is a Manchester-based composer-performer and multi-disciplinary artist. Having recently completed a practice-led PhD in composition at the RNCM, he is currently the RNCM PRiSM Post-Doctoral Research Associate, working closely with RNCM Experimental / Exploratory Music Research Centre (EEMRC).

ABOUT NMC RECORDINGS



NMC is an award-winning new music charity dedicated to recording, releasing and promoting contemporary classical music by composers living and working in Britain and Ireland.

Founded in 1989, NMC has released 300+ recordings to date, featuring more than 600 leading artists and ensembles, and over 400 composers. Our recordings are available in 141 countries and, since 2012, have been downloaded or streamed 16 million times, and accounted for more than 45,000 physical CD sales.

NMC receives £40,000 in regular funding from Arts Council England as a contribution to core costs as a National Portfolio Organisation.

NMC Recordings is a charitable company (reg. no. 328052) established for the recording of contemporary music by the Holst Foundation; it is grateful for funding from Arts Council England and The Delius Trust.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

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LOTTERY FUNDED



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ENGLAND**