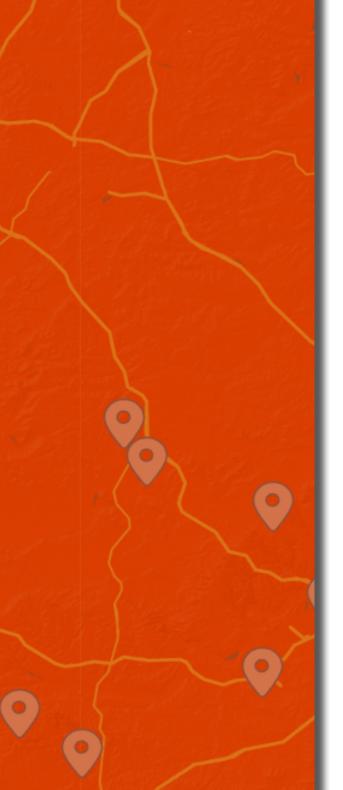


# TBG HBG LOCKDOWN MUSIC SURVEY

## **MIDLANDS**

CURATED BY

BIRMINGHAM RECORD COMPANY



## 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-ageneration 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**

The Midlands is an eclectic and exciting place to live and work, and we chose to reflect its unique atmosphere in a collection of 12 tracks that are highly original and musically diverse. The selection varies in mood: dark and captivating beat-driven music sits alongside epic soundscapes, comic improvisations, beautiful field recordings, uplifting lyrics and skilful instrumental playing. All of the tracks in some way exhibit the joy of musical creativity during challenging times, and represent just a small amount of the immense talent in the region.

**Birmingham Record Company** 



# **Breff Mints**Stephen Crowe

Nathan Plante trumpet

#### **Neverlinad**

#### Machine Woman

Machine Woman digital software, voice

### For Wolfy

### Dean Reynolds

Dean Reynolds samples, electronics, field recordings Wolfy O'Hare baroque viol, voice

### Panic & Run

#### Monkee Sez No

Blake Brereton acoustic guitar, synths, programmed drums Richey Shrimpton guitar, vocals Tom Westby keyboard, vocals Glenn Higgins hammond melodion

### On the wind colours speak

### Angela Elizabeth Slater

Ronan Whittern bassoon

## Pan-Harmonium: an improvisation, oboe and ancient Greek aulos Melinda Maxwell

Melinda Maxwell oboe, Ancient Greek aulos



# In Free Fall Kai Chareunsy

Lotte Young Andrade voice Tracey Awad voice Kevin Fiabema voice Kai Chareunsy drums Tom Harries piano

# Rapport Holly Gowland

Will Hammond clarinet

## Violin Sonata Sam Rudd-Jones

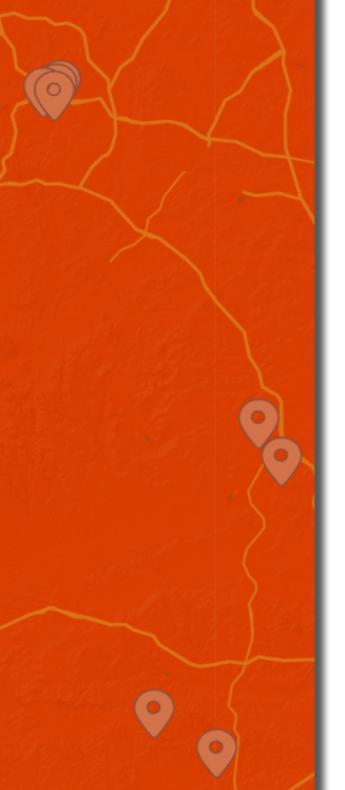
Leo Appell *violin* Sam Rudd-Jones *piano* 

## Car Crash Pareidolia: Feverdream Zygmund de Somogyi

Zygmund de Somogyi piano, ocarina, bass guitar, drums, synthesized woodwinds, synthesized percussion, field recordings

# calm down, love (postcards from home, pt. 2) Pia Rose Scattergood

Pia Rose Scattergood voice, guitar, loop pedals



### Be Your Own Guardian Angel

#### Millicent B. James

Millicent B. James synthesizers, synthesized bass, Western African percussion (djembes, rattles and shakers), voices (soprano, alto, tenor), cello, woodwind section (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon), brass section (trumpets, French horns, trombones), celesta, harp, piano, marimba, drum kit, tambourine, string section (violins, violas, cellos, double basses)

### Neverlinad

no, he doesn't know
he doesn't know
no, he doesn't know
he doesn't know
i think, he doesn't know
I think no, he doesn't know

© Machine Woman

## For Wolfy

Childhood house knocked down Disappearing memories Broken bricks and lives

Smashed concrete Scattered belongs All ruin and waste A towering testament to human need

As I bite into your arse and feel your muscles tense up and your erection jump involuntarily in my fist I wonder if I will ever hold your hand like my brother and his wife as they shop for stuff in town

The wind blows dust and dies, returning earth to earth Layer upon layer of particles peeled by the sterilising sun From Stone from bone Loam for the day to bury its dead and nights condensing pools to replenish survivors

Towers of flats poke at summer skies as below cars choke their empire

The magnolia fanned against ancient stone wall scatters wax petals

Garden hedge singing as knifed white football deflates Flower beds sleep safe

Diesel rainbows bloom on hot midsummer tarmac Steaming after rain

Bikes violate paths Cars splash city storm puddles Pedestrians run

Wisteria blooms sway from weathered wooden eaves Perfumed twilight breeze

Terraced miles pass by An autumn taxi journey from present to past

Sleat in winter streets Footprints left in dirty slush Melting memories

Aviation fuel burning on water
Fish pecking at a pair of floating trainers
Laces tied together
Easier to carry that way
This thought that comes to me as I sit in my room thinking of you, of my fears, is one that bears no relation to reality
So many others like it come and go, terrible and vivid, as if granting the cruel imagination autonomy from sense could teach strength Is it more a self defeating indulgence
Is this what it means to love someone

© Dean Reynolds

### Panic & Run

Where once I thought: "I almost could". When we were both a force for good, But now it's just: "I know". "I should". When strangers in a crowded place, Who glance together, Face to face. But just enough to heed their space. Let's not pretend that it's just that easy. We can't deny we're a little curious, though. Let's not pretend that we're just that easy, We can't deny it's a little curious though. The hands that touched. Forbidden fruit. Could hardly help but reach the root, If only I was of that route.

Let strangers love where strangers find, There's nothing there that I could find. But who am I to be unkind? Let's not pretend that it's just that easy, We can't deny we're a little curious, though. We can't pretend that we're just that easy, Let's now deny it's a little curious, though. Panic and run. Panic and run. I just panic and run. Why, When it gets too real, Do I panic and run? When I start to feel. Do I p-p-p-panic and run? When I see you coming, Do I panic and run? In swiftness. You're coming, I panic. I panic and run. P-A-N-I-C-R-U-N. P-p-p-panic and run. Well once, you know I thought I had Whilst we were out there doing bad But now the dream just makes me sad Lovers in an empty room Now just singing (out of tune) They harmonised just way too soon Let's not pretend that it's just that easy, We can't deny we're a little curious, though Panic and run Panic and run I just panic and run Panic and run Panic and run I just Panic and run Let's not pretend that it's just that easy We can't deny we're a little curious though.

© Monkey Sez No

### In Free Fall

Um... I enjoyed. Going back to my childhood home for the first lockdown, I enjoyed just being with my parents. Um... And just spending time with them and being able to be with them as an adult and um, work with them and you know get into a routine with them, and just be I guess three adults living in a space together and just making sure that we're all safe. I think the first two or three months of lockdown were really special for that reason because, we were all just keeping each other safe and making sure that when one was down that the other two would you know do their best to help the other and I think that was the nicest experience that I've had and, life is just always on a treadmill and to be able to just stop a little bit and just spend time with family is something that I hope I have more time to do in the future but I can already see that that space and time we had won't really happen again in the same way.

© Kai Chareunsy

## Be Your Own Guardian Angel

Set yourself free, we're here by your side, so believe. Oh how much further do we have left to go? (These roads you've walked before) And oh~ (You're not alone anymore) Ohh~

Walinikumbusha kuwa naweza kuwa huru (*Translation: They reminded me l could be free*)

© Millicent B. James

#### **GATEWAY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

Psappha North

> RECORD **COMPANY**

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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