



School: Bath School of Art

Researcher: Roger Clarke

Project Title: The Record Player Orchestra

UOA: 32

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
April 2013	<p>Stage 1: Research & Development:</p> <p>Recording of tracks for Record Player Orchestra vinyl record (to be used on all turntables/record players at the same time). Mastering of Record Player Orchestra album at Abbey Road Studios. Having created the tracks for the the two sides of the vinyl record this was the process of putting them onto the two lacquers that are then taken for processing and pressing by the Vinyl Factory.</p> <p>Record Player Orchestra vinyl record pressed at the Vinyl Factory</p>
April 2013 - February 2014	<p>Having created the RPO Vinyl, various stages of iterative development was undertaken prior to 2014 performances. Experiments with group and individual improvisations, and recordings. Establishing a structure that was 'loose' enough to facilitate and incorporate accident. New sounds discovered through operational anomalies of the record player itself. Exploring pre designed and improvisational scores.</p>
: 6th May 2014	<p>Stage 2: Public Events & Recordings:</p> <p>Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at JW3, Finchley Road, London for Neighbourhood Watch, as part of 'Space Invaders' series.</p> <p>This was the first time the RPO was installed in an exhibition where there were a number of other works installed in the same large space. To avoid clashes and in order for screenings and performances to have their own times a schedule was agreed in advance. However, once everything was installed and running, it</p>

emerged that other artists believed that the sounds being produced by the RPO were providing an unexpected soundscape for their works. This made me recognise that there was a good potential for collaborations and that the RPO could function to create scores for films, videos and physical performances.

26th April & 28 June 2014	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at A3 Project Space, Birmingham for collaboration with Sellotape Cinema
4th July 2014	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at Vivid Projects, Birmingham to show results of collaboration with Sellotape Cinema.
9th August 2014	<p>Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at Supernormal Arts Festival</p> <p>I wanted to test how the Record Player Orchestra could work as one of many events/installations in an (outdoor) festival and how to engage and gather people to play. However, my allocated time slot and location was changed at short notice and this resulted in having people who had been drinking, were expecting some entertainment and were unable to concentrate and/or focus. It was not a complete disaster but more time was spent responding to questions and feedback than actual engaging in playing.</p>
4th October 2014	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at General Practice, Lincoln
25th October 2014	<p>Installation at House Of Voodoo @ Folkestone Triennial Fringe (link here)</p> <p>As with many other events like this where I had a limited time slot, I wanted to install and demonstrate the Record Player Orchestra with the intention to recruit players and/or composers that I could bring together at a later meetings. I thought that with a more practiced and experienced group of players we could develop longer and more complex compositions that could be practiced and performed in the way that an orchestra would.</p>
12th - 14th September	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at London Analogue Festival, The Bargehouse, London
15th February 2015	<p>Thee Sunday Sonics, Hastings</p> <p>As with House Of Voodoo, I wanted to install and demonstrate the Record Player Orchestra with the intention to recruit players and/or composers that I could bring together at a later meetings. I thought</p>

27th June 2015	<p>that with a more practiced and experienced group of players we could develop longer and more complex compositions that could be practiced and performed in the way that an orchestra would.</p> <p>Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at i'klectik art-lab, London</p> <p>The invitation to install in this location came from Sonic Electronics curated by Laura Pearl and was hosted by i'klectik art-lab a self-funded creative platform.</p> <p>As with House Of Voodoo, I wanted to install and demonstrate the Record Player Orchestra with the intention to recruit players and/or composers that I could bring together at a later meetings. I thought that with a more practiced and experienced group of players we could develop longer and more complex compositions that could be practiced and performed in the way that an orchestra would.</p>
8th February 2016	<p>The Sunday Sonics, The Observer Building, Hastings</p> <p>As with many other events like this where I had a limited time slot, I wanted to install and demonstrate the Record Player Orchestra with the intention to recruit players and/or composers that I could bring together at a later meetings. I thought that with a more practiced and experienced group of players we could develop longer and more complex compositions that could be practiced and performed in the way that an orchestra would.</p> <p>This event brought together a number of projects in the same space and for this reason, it was very hard to achieve very much as there was too much sound coming from the rest of the building.</p>
26th February 2016	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at Facultad de Artes , Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
13th March 2016	Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at Instituto Departamental de Bellas Artes, Cali, Colombia
3rd May 2017	<p>Presentation at Open Scores Lab, Music Research Centre, Bath Spa University</p> <p>I presented my research involving the RPO at the Open Scores Lab, a research group within the Music Research Centre at Bath Spa University directed by James Saunders. In addition to the presentation, I installed a reduced version of the Record Player Orchestra in advance of an open call to participate in the recording of Newton Park Sessions by the Sello Disquero Uniandes record label.</p>

3rd to 6th July 2017	<p>Newton Park Sessions: Studio recording of digital album and vinyl record for Sello Disquero Uniandes SDU record label at Michael Tippett Centre, Bath Spa University for joint research project with Professor Sandro Carrera, Universidad de los Andes</p>
22nd July 2017	<p>Performance of Record Player Orchestra at Roja Cultural Centre, Roja, Latvia</p> <p>As with the visit to Colombia I took a limited version of the RPO to Latvia where I was one of 7 international artists selected to take part in the ROJA ART LAB art research residency. The focus of my research there was on creating a large scale sculpture that could be rolled around the city and the majority of my time was spent on the construction of this work.</p> <p>However, the director of the Roja Cultural Centre asked me if I would perform there with the RPO. Much of my research in the first days was spent looking at films held by the Latvian National Archive, resulting in the Roja Rolling Sculpture and its unveiling ceremony in 2018. Amongst the films I had watched many did not have a soundtrack and it was these films that provided the impetus for a performance. Building on what I had discovered when I provided the live soundtrack a 16mm film at the London Analogue Festival, I installed the reduced version of the RPO to the side of the audience so that they could see where and how the sounds were being made.</p> <p>Having thought that the act of performing was not something that I would do again after the London Analogue Festival, I did recognise that creating live soundtracks for films that did not have one was a direction that I was keen to explore further.</p>
31 October 2018	<p>Installation of the Record Player Orchestra at Bath School of Art and Design</p> <p>As the RPO had been sitting in its packing cases for over a year, I decided to install it at the Dartmouth Avenue campus both as a means to check that everything was still working and to introduce it to students on the Creative Arts Practice course that I teach on. Before this I had really not spoken to our students about the RPO as I had assumed that they would not be interested in it. As it turned out, there were two groups that engaged with it, one a quite different way than any before. This group decided that they did not want to be statically linked to a single turntable but instead wanted to be able to move around and use each turntable in turn. As one of them would have already chosen a track to play, they liked the idea that they could change/correct what they found playing or leave it as they found it. They also decided that they all to move on at the same time and that one of them randomly would choose when this was but that all the others had to move at this time but in</p>

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doing so, had to turn around 360degrees and jump in sync with the others. This made their involvement very much a performance and brought a dynamic I hadn't anticipated.

Installation of the *Record Player Orchestra* at Holborne Museum for Up Late, Some Things Political
As with the The Sunday Sonics, this event had numerous projects being presented at the same time but these were distributed around the Holborne Museum. This was the first time I had presented the RPO in Bath where I live and was an opportunity to do as I had other similar events. Although I had wondered at this point whether I had reached the end point for this project, a number of new participants engaged with it and, having taken their details and proposed that they join in regular Bath meetings, I was looking forward to these meetings.
