

Stewart Lane Bio

I am an interdisciplinary artist working in music, performance, song poetics, cultural activism and short film making. I consider myself neurodivergent and questions of neuro-diversity & divergency sit the heart of my work, while as a queer man, equality and inclusion inform how I approach it.

My divergency has meant I have often found the conventional world hugely challenging, music being one of the most significant means I have found that provides me with context and meaning, enabling me to form connections with others, especially through collaboration, and share my insights into divergency and what it has to offer society.

As a (necessarily) self taught composer, I have not followed any schools and happily ranged across genres from contemporary classical, electronica to experimental indie pop and, hopefully, blurred quite a few boundaries. I formed the alternative cabaret act, BAL (1989-96) which won an Edinburgh Fringe Award in 1992 and have written music for film and theatre.

Commissions include:

String Trio for Festival of Contemporary Music Riverside Studios London supported by London Borough Arts Scheme (1991)

Time And Disquiet (*Piano Trio* performed by Pirandello Ensemble) supported by Foundation for Sports And The Arts (1996)

Epocalypse for Bell Ringing ensemble Musicworks, Brixton (1993)

String Quartet no.3 Rosell String Quartet Musicworks, Brixton (1994)

Spaces revealed By Absence for Violin and Piano (London Lighthouse - 1996)

Heaven's Hill for mixed ensemble (Dynamix - 1999)

1998 Two pieces for Eric Presland's Anti-Requiem for World Aids day (Station 12 & Signs Of Passing) performed by the amateur Lesbian and Gay Symphony Orchestra

2002 - Music for two films by artist Alice Angus for Proboscis *Topographies And Tales* and *Urban Tapestries*

2006 - Music for Eric Fong's film 'Frames of Mind' inspired by and drawing on the archive of a former mental asylum (<https://ericfong.com/albums/frames-of-mind/>). 'Frames of Mind' was supported by NESTA in 2006 and is in the permanent collection of The Lightbox Gallery in Woking.

2006 - 2010 Zound Studios (Srdjan Kurpjel) Collaborating with Srdjan and his team composing music for films, (predominantly Turkish cinema). My main contribution was writing String parts. UK films include *The Long Road To Finchley* and *Albatross*

2013 Music for Eric Fong's 'Reflections': a series of moving-image portraits of people with facial disfigurement (<https://ericfong.com/albums/reflections/>). This work has been exhibited widely and received an exhibition prize awarded by Yinka Shonibare MBE at the Shape Open exhibition in 2013.

2013-2016 - a series of collaborations with Artist Caroline Hart exploring Bulgarian village life

In 2017-19 Commissioned by Monclarity to create music and spoken word content for their Mindwell app exploring well being via neuroscience and solfeggio frequencies

In 2022/23 Radio Ghosts. A series of short films featuring neurodiverse performers, using music/song instead of words. From the series, *Night Vertigo* won 9 film festival awards (inc Best Sound Design and Best Black & White Film) and was screened internationally at 13 festivals. *A Mouthful Of Aqueducts* won 9 international film awards. *I Diverge*, a documentary investigating the neurodiverse experiences of the performers and the making of the videos received 3 awards. My 2016 film *For The Birds* won Best Music Video at the Paris Film Awards.

2024 saw two major collaborations:

Artist Eric Fong commissioned me to compose the music to two films: *Apparitions* and *Glass Plate Negatives*.

The films explore Horton Cemetery in Epsom, where thousands of pauper patients, mostly women, from five nearby mental asylums were buried. It is now an abandoned, derelict, and overgrown site, where all grave markers have been removed, except one.

Both pieces appear on the album WE ARE ALL HERE for Soprano, Mezzo, Cello, Piano, Guitar and electronics. The album takes the theme of women's agency, from a historical as well as contemporary perspective, suggested by material from Eric's work.

A Field Companion to Sound: John Cage

Performance with Poet Tamar Yoseloff

Tamar Yoseloff and Stewart Lane explore the fluidities of sound-making suggested by the writings and philosophy of John Cage. Tamar will read a selection of poems informed by Cage and his circle, including dancer Merce Cunningham and artist Robert Rauschenberg; and Stewart will perform improvisational piano pieces inspired by asking *what music can be*, stretching our perception of listening and silence. With audience participation, Tamar and Stewart hope to illuminate ideas around the complexity of creating, and the element of chance involved in that process.

Hard to Swallow

Short film about the environment with poetry by Tamar Yoseloff and music for Cello, piano and Guitar by Stewart Lane

WE ARE ALL HERE was released on December 4th 2024. Five short films set to the music and exploring the album's themes were premiered on the same day at London's Close-Up Cinema and Shoreditch.

Albums:

Cloud Drumming (BAL - voice/piano/string quartet/percussion SLT records) (1994)

Arcanum for SATB and Chamber Orchestra (1998)

Black Apollo SATB and Chamber Orchestra and rock drums (2006)

Nerve/The Flood for String Quartet, SATB, Piano & Chamber Orchestra (2007)

Radio Ghosts for SATB, quartet, piano, electronica (2022)

Night Letters for solo piano performed by Jelena Makarova (2024)

WE ARE ALL HERE for Soprano, Mezzo, Cello, Piano, Guitar (2024)

Experimental/Electronica/Field recording albums

Liminal (2016)

Sonic Speculations 1 (2017)

Sonic Speculations 2 (2017)

Impossible Geometries (2018)

Rock Albums

Tales From The White Frontier (2009)

Sails (2010)

Fields Of Mars (2016)