

# Sampling the City: Shiva Feshareki Live at the Sheldonian

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Presented by the Humanities Cultural Programme  
with Shiva Feshareki  
and EMPRes, Oxford.



Friday 25 November 2022, 19.00, Sheldonian Theatre.



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



# **WELCOME**

*This space will include a brief welcome note from  
Prof. Wess Williams.*

## About the work

Sampling the City is an interdisciplinary project between Shiva Feshareki and EMPRES that incorporates sound, composition, technology, hermeneutics and architecture.

The live performance is the culmination of this project in which Shiva Feshareki uses her turntables to create a unique spatial composition live-in-the-moment at The Sheldonian. Samples collected from in and around Oxford will be incorporated with music and archive recordings from the EMPRES library. Old college choirs LPs will be morphed, expanded and contracted into tangible objects of sound that move, swirl and glide in the space. Different voices will be heard and manipulated live in improvisation, speeding them up, slowing them down, forwards and backwards to infinite effect, creating music and new perspectives out of the diverse sounds and narratives of Oxford.

During this performance, Shiva will listen and respond to the acoustics, the energy and the architecture of The Sheldonian to form a duet between herself and the acoustic space. A cutting-edge 16 speaker ambisonic sound-system has also been installed to generate a new form of 3D spatial audio also controlled by Shiva as she composes live. This approach is archetypal of Shiva's ambisonic live turntablism in which she fearlessly warps time and space through the boundless possibility of her turntables, interconnecting society, geography, and history into musical compositions that broaden perspectives.



Performing with Shiva will be Daniel Hulme on modular synthesizer. Daniel will weave together field recordings and narratives from the city of Oxford with the crackling raw electrical energy of the analogue synthesizer, to form a free-improvised collage and brand-new imaginary landscape – all in quadrasonic sound – convolving with Shiva to create a unique spatial duet.

The ambisonics for this event are powered by AUDITIF (Serafino di Rosario and Mario Buoninfante)

A full list of samples used is provided in this programme.

## Shiva Feshareki

Shiva Feshareki is a British-Iranian composer, artist and turntablist, described as “the most cutting-edge expression of turntablism” and as “one of the most astonishing acts of musical alchemy” (BBC Radio 3). Over the last decade, she has been a pioneer at the leading edge of both contemporary classical and electronic music scenes.

As a self-described sonic architect, Feshareki is fascinated by the materiality of sound. Her intrepid exploration of a 360-degree sound world encompasses compositions for orchestral, solo, choral, chamber, electronic and interdisciplinary installation works. In her live electronic compositions, she masterfully contorts samples of her acoustic compositions along with peculiarities from her own sample collection, employing an array of technology from vintage analogue tape echo, vinyl turntables, CDJs, to state-of-the-art ambisonic technology to create experiences that reveal the fluid and infinite interplay between sound and the physics of space. Her acoustic and electronic compositions are therefore deeply intertwined and this hybrid approach has placed Feshareki at the



In May 2022, Shiva released her critically acclaimed album *Turning World*, earning the title of Guardian’s Contemporary Album of the Month.

Feshareki has performed extensively across the world in concert halls, art galleries, festivals and raves, with notable appearances at BBC Proms (Royal Albert Hall), The Tanks at Tate Modern, Southbank Centre, Barcelona’s Sonar Festival, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (VAC Foundation), Casa Del Lago (Mexico), Mutek (Montreal), Hyperreality Festival of Club Culture (Vienna), Maerzmusik (Kraftwerk, Berlin) and Hellerau (European Centre for the Arts). Feshareki has also worked alongside the BBC Singers, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Contemporary Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Manchester Camerata, Netherlands Chamber Choir, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Haroon Mirza, Yoshi Sodeoka and Arlo Parks to name just a few.



## Daniel Hulme

Daniel Hulme is Electronic Music Studio Manager at the Faculty of Music, University of Oxford; where he teaches various aspects of studio practice, sound design, synthesis, computer music and other related areas. He is also one of the founders and directors of the Faculty of Music's EMPRes group. Since 2018 he has co-curated an event series in collaboration with Modern Art Oxford called *'The Art of Noises'*, focused on supporting experimental sound-based works.

He began experimenting with 4-track tape recorders, guitars, effects pedals and synthesisers in the early 1990s. Intrigued with the process and potential of recorded sound, and the fluidity of working within this medium, he went on to spend many years developing his craft in the UK music studio scene. He has always been fascinated in creating cybernetic networks of interacting people, processes and devices; each one listening and reacting to the other - freely improvising in response to the sounds and music happening in the studio or concert venue.

As a musician and music producer over the years he has collaborated with a diverse range of artists including Tricky, Roots Manuva, Jesse Darling and Beth Orton.



## EMPRes

The University of Oxford's [Electronic Music Practice RESearch group \(EMPRes\)](https://empres.music.ox.ac.uk) aims to promote and advance research in electronic music practice at a national and international level. It will do so by working with researchers and academics from a wide range of disciplines interested in electronic music, as well as with musicians, composers, producers and other members of the music industry. It aims to function primarily as a framework to provide support for practice-based activities.

The group's approach to electronic music practice is broad and inclusive, incorporating areas such as electroacoustic music, sonic art, record production and popular music, performance with electronics, field recording, music for film and numerous other genres and styles.

EMPRes exists to foster and support activity in this field within the University, and to encourage collaborations between partners from different parts of the institution, local external partners, other institutions, and the music industry. <https://empres.music.ox.ac.uk>

# Samples

## ***Narrative contributions from local artists and cultural ambassadors:***

Conversation between Zahra Haji Fath Ali Tehrani (musician, director of the *Young Women's Music Project* in Oxford) and Shaista Aziz (journalist and writer) - recorded whilst driving around the city of Oxford.

'*The Colonial Theme Park*' - poem read by Rawz (poet/rapper, Founder/Director of the Urban Music Foundation; 2022 Sound Artist in Residence at St John's College, Oxford). Produced by Daniel Hulme.

Emeritus Professor of Music Susan Wollenberg, in conversation with Gascia Ouzounian, discussing her appointment to the Music Faculty in 19\*\*.

### ***Field Recordings:***

Soundwalks in Central Oxford recorded by Shiva Feshareki.  
Soundwalks in Cowley recorded by Shiva Feshareki.  
Soundwalk in Oxford Museum of Natural History recorded by Daniel Hulme.  
Soundwalk in Gloucester Green Market recorded by Daniel Hulme.  
Local and national radio broadcast clips recorded by Daniel Hulme.

### ***Local artists music purchased from a Cowley Road record shop:***

Lucy Leave - *Everyone is Doing so Well*  
Moogiemann and The Masochists - *Ghost Driver*  
Various - *In The Beginning*  
Tommy Steele  
Rainbow Reservoir - *Channel Hanna*  
Dr. Box - *Tales*  
Vienna Ditto - *Flat Earth*

### ***Records from the Oxford Music Faculty Library:***

- The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford - *Faire is the Heaven* directed by Francis Grier.  
- The Choir of New College Oxford - William Byrd, *Cantiones Syacrae* directed by Edward Higginbottom.  
Schola Cantorum of Oxford  
- A Recital of Choral Music directed by John Byrt.

## ***Sampling Oxford Workshop Compositions:***

Sound works by students in the Faculty of Music and Ruskin School of Art who took part in a soundscape and field recording workshop led by sound artists/composers Shiva Feshareki and Matilde Meireles, organised by SONCITIES and EMPRES.

The workshop invited participants to experiment with field recording techniques and to create a short composition that may also be mapped by location as part of Shiva Feshareki's *Sampling the City* composition and residency programme in 2022.

Participating artists included: Florence Allen, Diana Chang, Melissa Chang, Gabriella Claude, Mia Davison, Leia Devadason, Abbey Hardy, Kristy Huang, Leonard Nucinkis, Melodie Showell, Richard Spence, Maryam Wocial, and Bilge Yilmaz.

# Thanks

Tonight's concert would not have been possible without the support the following individuals. We are so grateful for their time, energy and passion for this project.

Shiva Feshareki

Daniel Hulme

Alec Curtis

Professor Wes Williams

Dr. Vicky McGuinness

Gascia Ouzounian and Matilde Meireles at SONCITIES

Sara Lowes at Modern Art Oxford

Susan Wollenberg

Zahra Tehrani

Shaista Aziz

Rawz (Rory Campbell)

Sumedha Chakravarthy and the TORCH Team

Tim Hand

Martin Wiggins

Helen Messenger

Claire Knowles, Sheldonian Theatre

Students and Staff of the Music Faculty, Oxford

