

15.07.16

# SoundDome'16

School of  
Music

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Friday 15 July, 2016

**"What makes your heart sing? For me, and for the other members of SoundDome.Org, it is the point of intersection between sound, technology, and space. The SoundDome brings to life an extraordinary three-dimensional sound world previously conceivable only in the imagination of the composer."**

- Dr John Coulter

Managing Trustee of SoundDome.Org  
Coordinator of Sonic Arts Programmes, School of Music

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## INTRODUCTION

SoundDome.Org is a registered charitable trust, providing composers and sonic artists with a range of educational, developmental, as well as performance-based opportunities that support the practice of sonic arts in New Zealand.

Through this work, the organisation seeks to invigorate, grow and support a community of creative practitioners who compose, perform, fabricate, innovate and make use of technology; who study and research the language of music and sound; who learn from and care for the natural environment; and who use their individual and collective heritage as a source of musical inspiration.

## LISTENING INSTRUCTIONS

These works are best experienced with eyes closed. They contain some extremely quiet sounds and some very loud sounds, but rest assured that all are delivered well within the limits of health and safety!

If the listening experience proves to be overwhelming or disorientating, please feel free to place your hands over your ears, but we ask that you kindly refrain from leaving the listening area during the performance.

Please make sure that your cell phone is off and feel free to make use of the sleep mask provided. Sit back, relax, and let your imagination run away with you.

## Signal (2016)

David Downes

8 minutes

“*Signal* is a fixed media piece inspired by a couple of areas of interest that I started to explore musically during my years as Creative New Zealand / Jack C. Richards Composer-in-Residence at the New Zealand School of Music in 2012-13.

“One is simply the sound of **language**, especially its intriguing fragmentary/fluid character. The other is **voice** as a carrier of these strange representations of meaning and experience between the inner and outer world.

“Much of *Signal* is constructed from a large, electronically-generated library of micro-edited glitch fragments. These are grouped into ‘pseudo-sentences’ and propelled across various spatial trajectories. The results are carried over into an emerging, simulated world of chattering birds, insects and animals, and are accompanied by a range of emphatic human vocalisations inspired by sports games.”

- David Downes

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## While the Sun Shines (2013-16)

John Coulter

18 minutes

“It took me until my mid-forties to recognise the wisdom contained in the farming-related ethics I grew up with. I now fully appreciate what my father was trying to pass on in exposing his family to a life in the country. There is a richness of wellbeing that is all but unattainable in the melee of urban sprawl, and he, having spent his own childhood holidays on a farm in Milburn, Otago, intimately knew the value of this experience. This piece, which has taken several years to complete, is a gift for my wonderful parents Brian and Clare Coulter, who in 2016 celebrate their 75th and 70th birthdays (respectively), as well as their 50th ‘golden’ wedding anniversary.

“The saying ‘make hay while the sun shines’ expresses an attitude that can be literally translated as: ‘if you have an opportunity to do something, do it before the opportunity expires’. This code reflects a small part of the lifetime of learning and discovery that comes from living and working in a farming community.”

- John Coulter

## Composers



**Dr John Coulter** is a Senior Lecturer of Composition and the Coordinator of Sonic Arts Programmes at the University of Auckland's School of Music.

As a teacher working in the composition area, he spends much of his time focused on facilitating the needs of the '21st-century musician' – supporting men and women who compose, perform, fabricate, innovate and make use of technology; who study and research the language of music and sound; and who use their individual and collective heritage as a source of musical inspiration.

John is a member of several international organisations that uphold this holistic approach to music-making, and has presented both academic papers and creative works in several countries throughout the world including Australia, Canada, China, France, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States of America.



**David Downes** is a Wellington-based composer and filmmaker who has pursued an individual path of creative work. As a composer, his work has been commissioned and performed by ensembles such as the New Zealand Chamber Orchestra, NZTrio, Stroma, Strike, Defying Gravity (Australia) and BackBeat (UK).

Between 1988 and 1999, Downes made a considerable contribution to modern choreographic work in New Zealand with his contemporary dance scores, including many notable collaborations with choreographer Michael Parmenter.

As a moving image artist, Downes has explored experimental video, long form narrative filmmaking and animation, and computer generated-imagery. With a particular focus on the expression of music through the moving image, he has produced several international award-winning films, including the 2000 musical feature *A Small Life* with Michael Heath, and the 2004 animated short film *Generation*. In 2014, he was invited to present a concert of his music-based films at the Beijing Modern Music Festival.

## Engineers



Based in the Kenneth Myers Centre, **John Kim** facilitates the recording, live sound and sound design aspects of the School of Music at the University of Auckland.

Working with students, academic staff and visiting artists who bring the most creative ideas to the table, and watching the incredible results, is what John enjoys most about his role within the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries.



**Clovis McEvoy** is a composer, lecturer, sound engineer and music journalist based in Auckland. He holds a Bachelor of Music and Graduate Diploma in Sound, and currently lectures at the University of Auckland in the field of sonic arts and music production.

Clovis specialises in the field of live electronics, designing customised music software for the purpose of interactive performances and installations. In 2013, he was selected to study at IRCAM in Paris, France, and participated in the centre's multidisciplinary festival and academy, 'Manifeste'.

Clovis has composed soundtracks for short films, documentaries and live theatre, including the 2013 Fringe Festival play *Gorge*, Auckland Theatre Company production *BED* (2015), and the Marvellous Theatre Group production *Awake*. Winner of the 2014 Douglas Lilburn Composition Prize, Clovis' composition *Conflux* was one of 16 works, out of 250 submissions from over 30 countries, selected for performance at the 2015 Seoul International Computer Music Festival, South Korea.



## What's coming up at the School of Music

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>22.07</b> | Zephyr Wind Quintet at Lunchtime                    |
| <b>24.07</b> | Sundays@5 // Collegium Musicum                      |
| <b>27.07</b> | Fermata: Associate Professor Warren Drake           |
| <b>29.07</b> | SOMSA Presents: Lunchtime Concert Series            |
| <b>07.08</b> | Sundays@5 // Nicholas Isherwood: The Electric Voice |

For more information or to book, please visit our website:

[www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/events](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/events)

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## Find out more about our composition programmes

The Bachelor of Music (BMus) programme offers majors in classical and jazz performance, composition, musicology, and popular music. As a composition major, you will develop essential skills and techniques to broaden your knowledge, and gain valuable insight into the industry. The School of Music offers highly experienced teachers across all majors who have studied, performed, taught and presented all over the world.

### **Dr John Coulter**

Senior Lecturer, Composition  
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For more information, please visit our website:

[www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/music](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/music)

# School of Music



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## Support for the University of Auckland

There are many promising students who, because of their circumstances, are unable to come to university to further their training. Scholarships play a vital role in helping many students into tertiary education. If you would like to donate towards a scholarship or support the programmes offered by the University of Auckland in any other way, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

**Heather McAllister**  
Development Manager

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