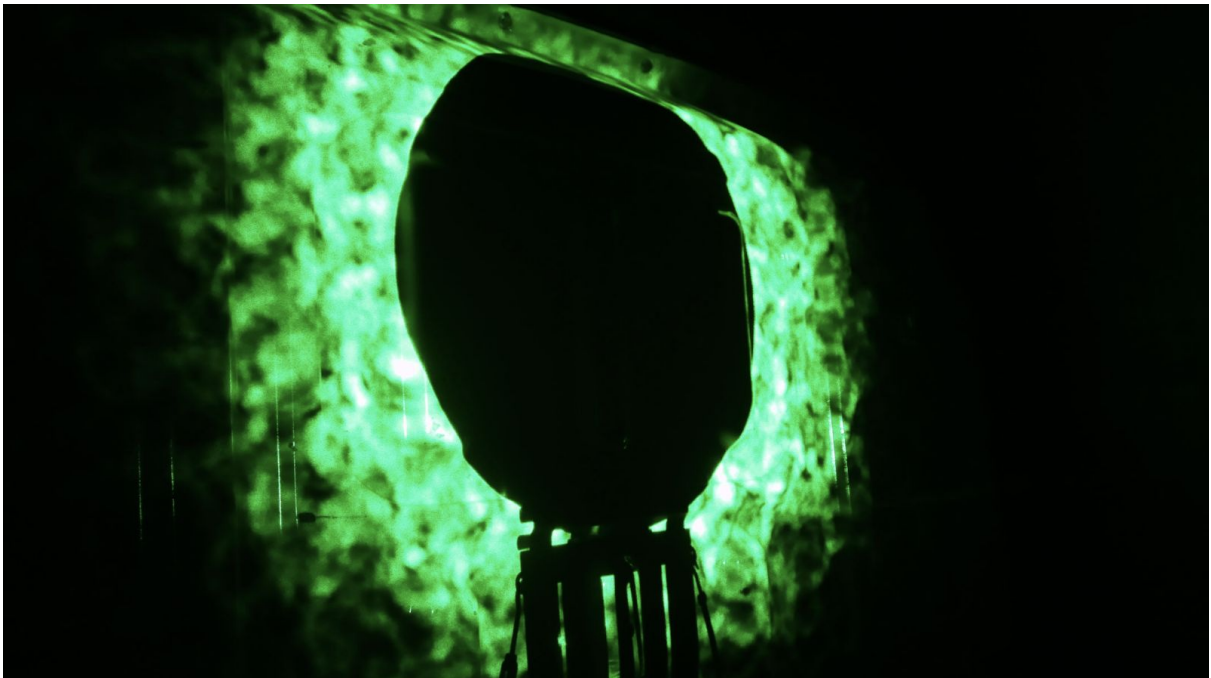


Press Release

Monday 24 August 2020

LONGPLAYER 20TH ANNIVERSARY

- Artangel celebrates two decades of Jem Finer's ground-breaking musical composition
- 24 international thinkers to participate in 12-hour conversation relay on long term thinking
- Major new installation 'Sonic Ray': projects Longplayer as a beam of light across the Thames



2020 marks the 20th anniversary of Longplayer – the ground-breaking 1,000 year-long musical composition by artist Jem Finer.

Commissioned by Artangel, Longplayer began playing at midnight on the 31st December 1999 in the lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, composed to continue for 1,000 years until it completes its cycle as the longest piece of music in history. Longplayer grew out of a conceptual concern with questions of representing and understanding the expansiveness of time. Its music changes from day to day, from century to century, conceived to endure and adapt to shifts in the technological and social environment.

Two distinct events celebrate Longplayer's two decades this autumn:

On Saturday 26 September Artangel and The London Review of Books will present The Artangel Longplayer Assembly – an ambitious 12-hour conversation relay between 24 pairs of pioneering thinkers discussing a range of issues, from public health, climate change and economics, to art, urban design and new technology. Speakers include: John Akomfrah, Naomi Alderman, Laurie Anderson, Rupert Beale, Holly Jean Buck, Meehan Crist, Brian Eno, Saul Griffith, Janna Levin, Precious Lunga, Vibeke Mascini, Mariana Mazzucato, Mulindwa Moses, Catalina Ortiz, Will Prentice, Alexander Rose, Sukhdev Sandhu, Saskia Sassen, Jacqueline Springer, Amia Srinivasan, Helen Thompson, Eyal Weizman, Farhana Yamin and Theodore Zeldin.

The event will be streamed live on the Artangel website from 10.00am – 10.00pm BST on Saturday 26 September and broadcast live on Resonance FM.

From 30 October – 6 December 2020, Artangel presents Jem Finer's Sonic Ray - a powerful beam of light that will project the sound of Longplayer across the Thames from the Faraday lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, reanimating its lantern room for the first time since the late 19th century. Sonic Ray encodes the slow music of Longplayer across the river at the speed of light, to its new temporary listening post aboard Richard Wilson's nautical sculpture *Slice of Reality*, located on the foreshore of the opposite bank. A short ferry ride will connect the two locations, allowing visitors to experience Longplayer as a bridge of light across the Thames.

The Artangel Longplayer Assembly

In association with the London Review of Books

10am – 10pm, Saturday 26 September 2020

For more information visit: www.artangel.org.uk/longplayer-assembly/

Sonic Ray

Commissioned and produced by Artangel

Generously supported by the Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust

30 October – 6 December 2020

Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, E14 0JW

Admission Free. Booking required

Open 5pm – dusk

For more information visit: www.artangel.org.uk/sonic-ray

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Longplayer

Longplayer is a one thousand year-long musical composition. It began playing at midnight on the 31st of December 1999 and will continue to play without repetition until the last moment of 2999, at which point it will complete its cycle and begin again. Conceived and composed by Jem Finan, it was originally produced as an Artangel commission, and is now in the care of the [Longplayer Trust](#). Longplayer can be heard in the lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, where it has been playing since it began. It can also be heard at several other [listening posts](#) around the world, and globally via a live stream on the Internet.

Longplayer is composed for singing bowls – an ancient type of standing bell – which can be played by both humans and machines, and whose resonances can be very accurately reproduced in recorded form. It is designed to be adaptable to unforeseeable changes in its technological and social environments, and to endure in the long-term as a self-sustaining institution.

Longplayer grew out of a conceptual concern with problems of representing and understanding the fluidity and expansiveness of time. While it found form as a musical composition, it can also be understood as a living, 1000-year-long process – an artificial life form programmed to seek its own survival strategies. More than a piece of music, Longplayer is a social organism, depending on people – and the communication between people – for its continuation, and existing as a community of listeners across centuries.

An important stage in the development of the project was the establishment of the [Longplayer Trust](#), a lineage of present and future custodians invested with the responsibility to research and implement strategies for Longplayer's survival, to ask questions as to how it might keep playing, and to seek solutions for an unknown future.

<https://longplayer.org/>

Artangel

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places across London, the UK, and beyond. For over thirty years, Artangel has generated some of the most widely discussed art of recent times, including prominent large-scale projects with artists who have become household names in the UK, including the likes of Jeremy Deller, PJ Harvey, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, and Rachel Whiteread.

Recent Artangel projects include Taryn Simon's *An Occupation of Loss*, Evan Roth's *Red Lines*, Heiner Goebbels' *Everything that happened and would happen*, Jonathan Glazer's short film *STRASBOURG 1518*, made for the BBC, and Steve McQueen's *Year 3*, in collaboration with Tate Britain and A New Direction. Appearing anywhere from empty prisons to underground vaults, prime-time TV to the sky at night, Artangel produces art that takes on a multitude of forms and appears in different places to offer varying points of access and interaction to a curious public.

Jem Finan

Jem Finan is a UK-based artist, musician and composer. Since studying computer science in the 1970s, he has worked in a variety of fields, including photography, film, music and installation.

Longplayer represents a convergence of many of his concerns, particularly those relating to systems, long-duration processes and extremes of scale in both time and space. Among his other works is [*Score For a Hole In the Ground*](#), a permanent musical installation in a forest in Kent. Self-sustaining and relying only on gravity and the elements to be audible, the project continues Finer's interest in long-term sustainability and the reconfiguring of older technologies.

Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust

In 1998, London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) set up the Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust with a 125-year lease to hold the land and their vision in trust for the people of London, while the freehold was passed to the LB Tower Hamlets. The TBW Trust holds a 125-year lease from LB Tower Hamlets and Urban Space Management in turn has a 124 lease from the Trust. The terms provide for 25% of the Wharf's income to be paid to the Trust to use for promoting arts activity in the area. To date the Trust has supported and funded a wide range of arts projects and organisations.

www.trinitybuoywharf.com

The London Review of Books

The LRB is Europe's leading magazine of culture and ideas. Published twice a month, it provides a space for some of the world's best writers to explore a wide variety of subjects in exhilarating detail – from art and politics to science and technology via history and philosophy, not to mention fiction and poetry. In the age of the long read, the LRB remains the pre-eminent exponent of the intellectual essay, admired around the world for its fearlessness, its range and its elegance.

As well as book reviews, memoir and reportage, each issue also contains poems, reviews of exhibitions and movies, 'short cuts', letters and a diary, and is available in print, online, and offline via the LRB app. Subscribers enjoy unlimited access to every piece ever published by the paper, in its digital archive. The new LRB website also features a regular blog, an online store, podcasts and short documentaries, plus video highlights from events programmes on both sides of the Atlantic, and at the London Review Bookshop.

www.lrb.co.uk/