

Singing, Science & Adventure

This is a Fun Palaces event – a national celebration of arts and science at the heart of our communities

Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October 2015 – The Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington

Session 1 – Steven Mithen

Where did our enjoyment of music come from? Why are we so compelled to use music in so many different ways? Why do some people dedicate themselves to developing expertise as singers or musicians? The answers I will suggest are found in our stone age past. Through millions of years of human evolution from our ape like ancestors to the first modern humans of 100,000 years ago, musicality has been central to communication, cooperation and individual well-being. Its evolution was aided by changes in human anatomy, such as reduction in canine size, bipedalism; it was required by changes in lifestyle, such as longer periods of child care and big game hunting. This presentation will take us swiftly through those evolutionary events and how they have left us today as the very lucky beneficiaries of a musical stone age past.

Session 2 – Evangelos Himonides

Following Steven Mithen's exciting introduction about the evolution of the human voice in speech and singing, Dr Evangelos Himonides is going to present the vocal instrument, its function, properties, needs, and uniqueness, as they are celebrated at the present time. The presentation will include multimedia examples as well as real time visual displays, which are going to be used in an interactive play with the students in the audience. Some 'interesting' technologies about voice recording and voice manipulation should also trigger the children's excitement about modern technologies and instruments.

Session 3 – Vivien Ellis

Now we know about singing and how our voice works, it's time to get vocal and physical with professional singer Vivien Ellis. Her enthusiasm and passion for singing is infectious, and she will lead a session for everyone to join in, with brilliant beats, catchy choruses, and punchy body-percussion. Expect lots of playfulness, joyful sounds, and a great deal of laughter.

BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Steven Mithen holds a BA (hons) in Prehistory & Archaeology from Sheffield University, an MSc in Biological Computation from York University and a PhD in Archaeology from Cambridge University. Between 1987 and 1992 he was a Research Fellow at Trinity Hall and then Lecturer in Archaeology at Cambridge. After moving to the University of Reading, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer (1996), Reader (1998) and then Professor of Early Prehistory (2000). In August 2002 he was appointed as the first Head of the School of Human & Environmental Sciences, formed by the Departments of Archaeology, Geography, Soil Science and the Postgraduate Institute of Sedimentology, a post he held until August 2008 when he became Dean of the Faculty of Science. He was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2004. He is Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Reading University and author of several books including *The Singing Neanderthals* and *The Prehistory of the Mind: The Cognitive Origins of Art, Religion and Science*.

Dr Evangelos Himonides held the University of London's first ever lecturership in music technology education and is now Reader in Technology, Education and Music at UCL Institute of Education. He teaches Music Education, Music Technology and Information Technology, at a post-graduate level, and also leads the post-graduate course Music Technology in Education. He holds a Music Diploma from the Macedonian Conservatoire Thessaloniki, Greece, a BSc in IT (Multimedia), a Masters in Education from Surrey University, and a PhD from London University. He is Chartered Fellow (FBCS CITP) with the British Computer Society. As a musician, technologist and educator, Evangelos has had an ongoing career in

experimental research in the fields of Psychoacoustics, Music-Perception, Music-Cognition, IT, Human-Computer Interaction, Special Needs, the Singing Voice and development. As a sound engineer and researcher, Evangelos has recorded with various artists such as Derek Lee Ragin (Farinelli), Vanessa Mae (SONY BMG) and Jarvis Cocker (Pulp) and for numerous media productions (for the BBC, Ch5, Discovery Channel, RTL, CBS). Evangelos is section editor for 'technology' for the recently published by OUP "Oxford Handbook of Music Education", and has developed Sounds of Intent (www.soundsofintent.org), an online resource that supports the development of children and young people with complex needs through and with music. When time permits, Evangelos likes to record music, play guitar, and handcraft musical instruments in order to raise funds for his charitable work.

Vivien Ellis, singer, performs early, traditional and new music with international ensembles The Dufay Collective, Sinfonye, The Carnival Band and her own duo Alva. She has performed in seasons with The Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Vivien's voice has featured on numerous TV and film soundtracks. She has toured throughout the UK and Europe, and has made several tours of North and South America, Canada and Australia, appearing in major festivals and concert series. She has made many recordings as a soloist and has featured in a number of radio broadcasts. 'Cancionero', her CD of early Spanish music with The Dufay Collective, was nominated for a Grammy Award.

An experienced and popular teacher, Vivien has taught at many institutions including the Royal Academy of Music, The Place (London School of Contemporary Dance), Dartington International Summer School and The Globe Theatre. She is committed to working as a musician in the community, and was a community musician for The Spitalfields Festival for several years. She currently runs a weekly choir in The Dragon Café, a drop-in creative centre in Borough, Southwark, for people with mental health issues. She is a researcher at Sidney de Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health and designed a new trial *Arts on Prescription* training for trainee GPs at Imperial College.

Greg Harradine workshop leader and administrator for The Musical Brain, is a composer, performer and teacher. He was Resident Composer at Soho Theatre in 2014 and works with theatre companies across London and the UK. He has recently composed scores for Camisado Club, Whispering Beasts, Theatre Uncut and Look Left Look Right. Greg also leads workshops on songwriting, musicianship and musical theatre for children and adults.

Wallis Eates designed the cave for **Singing, Science & Adventure**. She studied at the Royal College of Art where she constructed a cave wall as part of her second year MA in Animation. She explores the theme of memory in her comic books and graphic novels. **Richy K. Chandler**, assisting Wallis, is the founder of Tempo Lush, a small press comic publisher and illustration and design brand.

Participating schools:

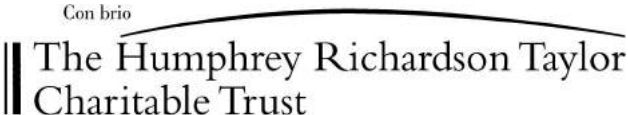
Archdeacon Cambridge's CE Primary School
Orleans Primary School
St Richard's CE Primary School
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
St Mary's and St Peter's CE Primary School

The Musical Brain, founded in 2010, aims to play a central role in facilitating debate between the general public, musicians, artists, scientists and the medical profession, concerning new scientific knowledge of the effects of music and other art forms upon the human mind, brain and body.

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