

the octopus

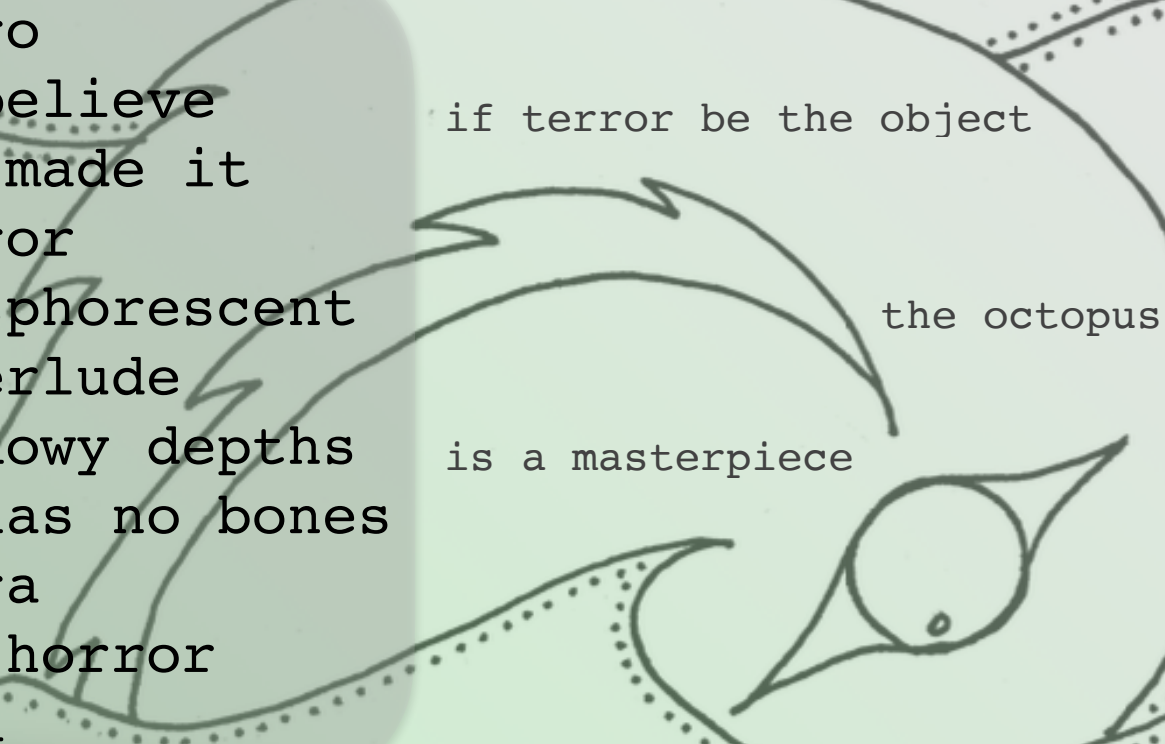
lauren redhead

to believe in the octopus, one must have seen it

the octopus is a digital opera that explores the changing aesthetics of the undersea from the imagined perspective of the octopus. While climate change narratives focus most frequently on data about temperature, population numbers, or the material composition of the atmosphere and ocean, this piece 'listens' to the environment in order to contemplate the subjective experience of wildlife of their subtly changing environment. It both considers the 'alien' nature of life under the ocean, and considers the equally alien nature of life above the ocean to its protagonist. The poet acts partly as a narrator, guiding the listener through the ocean, encountering text from Victor Hugo's 1866 novel *les travailleurs de la mer*, and introducing a subjective reflection on narratives of the changing ocean environment, imagining its experience, expression, and sound. The instrumental group otherwise 'explore' the alien and undersea setting of the work through improvised responses to the graphic score materials of the project. The musical environment of the undersea is further articulated through electronic sound as a layered and processed sound-sea-scape which uses instrumental and vocal sounds in unfamiliar, uncanny and unrecognisable ways.

Lauren Redhead	composition, spoken voice, piano, organ, electronic sound
Kat Peddie	poetry, spoken voice
Paul Cheneour	flutes
Maureen Wolloshin	oboe
Alistair Zaldua	violin
Rebecca Hardwick	soprano

Orpheus, Homer, Hesiod only made the Chimera; God made the octopus



0'00"	intro	
3'28"	to believe	if terror be the object
7'20"	god made it	
12'16"	terror	
16'32"	phosphorescent	the octopus
22'53"	interlude	
27'02"	shadowy depths	is a masterpiece
30'36"	it has no bones	
35'40"	hydra	
41'40"	oh, horror	
46'52"	coda	

it's most terrible quality is its softness: a glutinous mass possessed of a will, what more frightful?

Lauren Redhead is a composer, performer, and musicologist.



lauren redhead: composer

Many of her compositions are published by Material Press (Berlin). She is interested in notation and materiality, increasingly using a combination of experimental approaches to the creation of scores and electronic materials, and improvisation, to realise her projects. As a performer of music for organ and electronics, Lauren works in a duet with Alistair Zaldua.

Together they present works that focus on interactivity between the two instruments and commission new considerations of the organ in space, and of notation for their combination. Lauren writes about the aesthetics and socio-semiotics of 20th and 21st Century musics, and about the phenomenon of practice research.

laurenredhead.eu

Kat Peddie is a poet, performer, and lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Kent. Her poetry, essays and photography have been published in *Shearsman Magazine*, *Junction Box*, *Molly Bloom*, *Tears in the Fence*, *Tentacular*, *Litmus*, *SNOW*, and *Litter*, among others. Her pamphlet of Sappho translations and variations *Spaces for Sappho* is published with Oystercatcher Press. She creates work and performs with Free Range Orchestra and a troupe of players who were once known as the Dicksie Pix.

Kat Peddie: poetry

glue filled with hatred



Trio CZW are Maureen Wolloshin (oboe and cor anglais), Paul Cheneour (flutes), and Alistair Zaldua (violin and live electronics). We describe our collaborative practice as 'cartographism': improvisations that are informed by graphic and text scores that can be imagined as maps and allows us to explore, traverse and uncover dynamic spaces. Based in Kent, UK, Trio CZW brings together the rich backgrounds of its musicians. maureenwolloshin.com/music

Trio CZW



it is phosphorescent,
the nuptial hour, it adorns itself, it lights up, it illuminates itself

it awaits



Trained at the Guildhall School of Music London under the late Professor Rainer Schuelein, Paul has 57 CDs published by Northstar music UK, 5 major films; including EMMA award winning '6th Happiness' and 'Hideous Kinky'. Best Foreign film winner in 2007 for 'In The Place of the Dead'. DVDs & documentaries include BBC 2's Egyptian Journeys, 'The Painter and the Musician' and Out-OF-Tune. Paul was voted No: 72 in "The world's best 100 jazz flautists of all time" by www.digitaldreamdoor.com readers in 2005. He was also a 'Sound artist for Transmettre/Transmit 2007. Founder member of: Zen Bicycle Band, Breath of Poets, Sufi-Baul-Fusion, 'whereness', Free Range Orchestra, CWZ3, & Dragonfly. www.cheneour.com

Paul Cheneour: flutes

in shadowy depths,
spread out in pallid irradiation; a spectre sun

Maureen Wolloshin is an oboist, researcher and composer. Her research explores the internal process and journey of the contemporary female improvising musician in Britain. Her improvising explores and extends the timbral range of the oboe and cor anglais. It plays with the tonal palettes of jazz, folk and contemporary music.

Where the Wind Takes us



Maureen performs with the Free Range Orchestra in Canterbury and Trio CZW. As a composer, Maureen is interested in the relationship between sound, colour, touch and improvisation. She combines watercolour graphic score making with practices derived from Scottish and Arabic music.

maureenwolloshin.com

it has no bones, it has no blood, it has no flesh

Maureen Wolloshin: oboe

there is nothing in it, it is a skin

Alistair Zaldua: violin

Alistair Zaldua is a composer of contemporary, experimental, and improvised music and has written work for chamber, orchestral, solo forces and live electronics. Most recently, his work has focused on collaboration with a range of musicians and artists from musical and other backgrounds. In 2020 he was awarded a Sound and Music COVID-19 Composer Award, and received a grant from Arts Council UK Emergency Response Fund for the release of his album of compositions for multiple violins: *remote music* (released: 6.11.2020). Recently Alistair performs with the *whereness* quartet, whose CD was released in October, 2020, and with Trio CZW. alistair-zaldua.de

it superimposes itself upon you by a thousand mouths:
hydra with man, man with hydra, you form but one

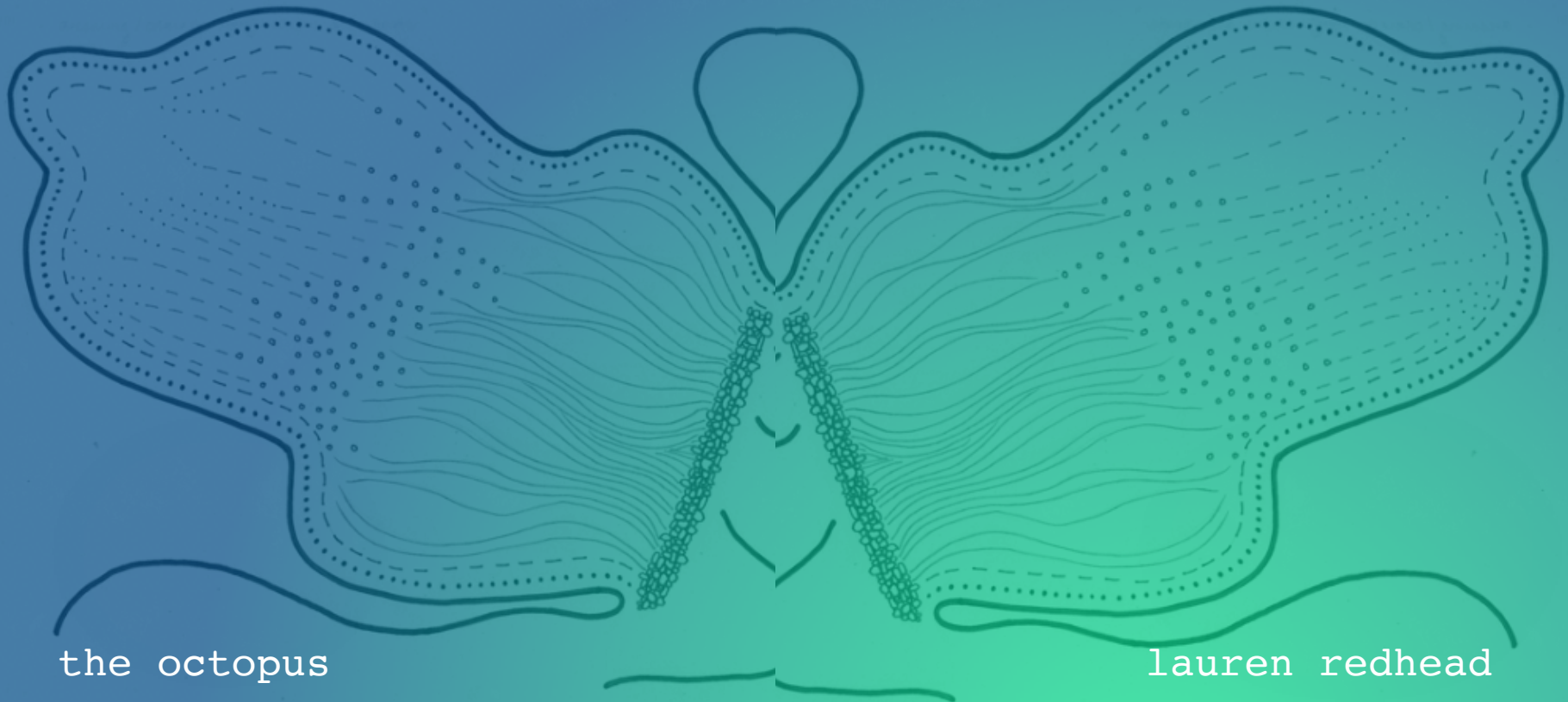


Rebecca Hardwick: soprano



British soprano Rebecca Hardwick is a versatile classical singer based in London, regularly performing opera, oratorio and art song. She enjoys a variety of work internationally. Rebecca is an advocate for contemporary repertoire, and has performed Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* at the RCM, Stockhausen's *Am Himmel wandre ich* in Germany and the UK, and part one of Kurtag's *Kafka Fragments* at Snape Maltings as part of their *Festival of New*. Highlights of her concert appearances include 'Hallelujah Handel' at the Royal Albert Hall with the English Festival Orchestra, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Oxford Bach Choir and at the Cambridge Summer Music Festival, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Hereford Cathedral, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, and Schubert's *Mass in E Flat* at Cadogan Hall. rebeccahardwick.com

This dream is upon you: the tiger can only devour you.
The octopus - oh! Horror! - breathes you in



the octopus

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