

**MEDIA RELEASE:** April, 2009



## **Auckland Museum and Leading Musicians get Together on Sonic Museum**

Auckland Museum is joining forces with some of the biggest names in New Zealand music, including Tiki Taane, Nathan Haines and Don McGlashan, to work on a ground-breaking project called *Sonic Museum*, which will see the production of a series of exclusive new music tracks inspired by galleries at Auckland Museum.

Musicians and sound artists from the dance, rock, ambient, orchestral and jazz scenes have been invited to write and record a track inspired by a gallery of their choice in the museum. Reinterpreted galleries include the World War 2 Hall of Memories, Ancient Worlds, the Oceans Gallery and Maori Court.

The project will be launched on Thursday, 7 May to coincide with the LATE at the Museum event and the launch of New Zealand Music Month. Visitors to Auckland Museum can hear the tracks by donning a special set of headphones and embarking on a sonic exploration of the collections. The tracks will also be available for download onto portable music players from the museum website.

“The collections in Auckland Museum affect each of us in different ways. In *Sonic Museum*, a diverse selection of original music accompanies you through the galleries,” says Auckland Museum Director Dr Vanda Vitali.

“This exciting project highlights the way in which our thoughts, feelings and sensations are constantly reorganised by new experiences.

On the one hand the music allows us to consider how others, in this case a group of New Zealand’s top musicians, can be inspired by galleries in the Museum. At the same time the tracks develop our own experience of the displays, encouraging a new awareness of the collections, of ourselves, and of the world in which we live.”

Musicians taking part in *Sonic Museum* and the galleries they have chosen are:

**Tiki Taane**

Maori Court

**Don McGlashan**

Origins Gallery

**Nathan Haines**

Oceans Gallery

**Phil Dadson**

Ancient Worlds

**Chris Adams**

World War 1 Sanctuary

**Rachel Shearer**

Volcanoes

**Richard Francis (aka Eso Steel)**

Land Gallery

**Rosy Parlane**

World War 2 Hall of Memories

**Tim Coster**

Landmarks: International Design and Decorative Arts

**ENDS**

What: Sonic Museum

When: From Thursday, 7 May

Where: Auckland Museum

Cost: \$10 to hire headphones or download all tracks

More information: [www.sonicmuseum.co.nz](http://www.sonicmuseum.co.nz)

**SONIC MUSEUM BIOGRAPHIES:****Tiki Taane**

After 11 years with successful band Salmonella Dub, Tiki Taane (of Ngati Maniapoto) is now a stand-out solo artist with a worldwide following for his special brand of Aotearoa-made music. In 2007, he released his debut album *Past, Present, Future* through his company Tikidub productions, thus revealing his multiple talents as musician, producer, composer, audio engineer and entrepreneur. Two-time winner of the Best Live Sound Engineer gong at the b.Net NZ Music Awards, Taane has a reputation for boosting shows, musical works and recordings by taking music into an innovative new realm. His talents as audio engineer are much in demand, including a permanent gig with Kiwi drum 'n' bass dance band Shapeshifter.

**Don McGlashan**

Don McGlashan is recognised as one of New Zealand's foremost songwriters, artists and performers, with five entries in APRA New Zealand's Top 500 Songs of All Time. His career spans the seminal post-pop-punk band Blam Blam Blam, the innovative and influential The Front Lawn and, from 1991-2002, the platinum-selling band The Mutton Birds. The Mutton Birds album *Envy of Angels* made the UK *Sunday Times* top 10 list when it was released in 1997, and critics later hailed the Kiwi songwriter as "one of Britain's most intelligent, poetic songwriters". He is a two-time winner of the APRA Silver Scroll award for songwriting, for 'Anchor Me' in 1994 and 'Bathe at the River' in 2006. McGlashan opened for Crowded House on their recent US and Canada tour, guest-spotted with the band and is part of the Neil Finn project 7 Worlds Collide. Based in New Zealand since 2000, he has composed extensively for film and television, with his latest project being the score of Toa Fraser's movie *Dean Spanley*. McGlashan received an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award in 2002.

**Nathan Haines**

Nathan Haines, New Zealand's famed jazz musician and producer, grew up immersed in music. His father Kevin was a full-time musician who fed a steady diet of jazz recordings to Haines and brother Joel. The multi-instrumentalist went on to study and perform in New York, returning to New Zealand to record the classic *Shift Left* album in 1994, the country's biggest-selling-ever jazz album. Two of his albums have since achieved gold status in New Zealand. During his long stint in London, Haines teamed up with various influential drum and bass producers and fused live music with top DJs at his weekly club night. Haines has performed on the international jazz circuit and is a sought-after collaborator and session musician. He recently recorded an album with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, featuring arrangements by Grammy award-winner Alan Broadbent, with a BBC critic calling Nathan's lyrical talent "a revelation".

**Phil Dadson**

The work of intermedia artist and experimental composer Phil Dadson has been resonating throughout the international music and art worlds since the early 1970s. His sound-based artworks

take many forms: from performances and videos to invented musical instruments, sound compositions and installations. A founding member of Scratch Orchestra in London, Dadson launched rhythm/performance group From Scratch in 1974, which subsequently performed to wide acclaim in New Zealand and overseas. Former senior lecturer and head of Intermedia at Auckland's Elam Art School, Dadson is also an award-winning film maker. During his 2003 Artist Fellowship in Antarctica, he travelled with scientists to take video and sound recordings in the remote dry valleys. In 2001, Dadson received an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award, and in 2005 he was made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. More recently, he took artist residency at Sanskriti in India and co-authored a guide to building slap tube instruments.

### **Chris Adams**

Chris Adams is a promising young New Zealand classical composer, with work recently performed by the Jade Quartet, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Christ's College Choir, Gate Seven and Silencio. He graduated from the University of Canterbury with a MusB (Hons) in Composition and gained his MMus in Composition from the University of Auckland in 2007, studying under John Elmsly and Eve de Castro-Robinson. Adams' orchestral compositions have also been broadcast on Radio New Zealand. As a singer and violinist, Adams has worked with leading New Zealand youth ensembles, including the Christchurch Cathedral Godley Choral Scholars, the National Youth Orchestra and the New Zealand Youth Choir. Adams is currently the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra Composer in Residence and Head of Department for music at Liston College, Auckland.

### **Rachel Shearer**

Rachel Shearer has released CDs with various international record labels and performed live since 1987. During the late 80s and early 90s she performed with the group Angelhead, before going on to release records on the iconic Flying Nun label and US label Siltbreeze, with all-girl avant-goth-rock group Queen Meanie Puss. Under the moniker Lovely Midget she has released works with Corpus Hermeticum (NZ), Ecstatic Peace (US) and Family Vineyard (US). Rachel has lectured in time-based arts at Elam School of Fine Arts at Auckland University, trained in live sound engineering in Germany and post-production audio at The Inside Track in Auckland. She combines her musical experiments with a variety of sound practices, creating sound installations, composing music for film and working as a sound designer and sound editor.

### **Richard Francis (aka Eso Steel)**

Richard Francis has been active as a musician since 1996. His sound work is primarily concerned with recording and manipulating acoustic and electronic sounds from the environment. Francis has released solo and collaborative sound works on a variety of labels and under his own label – CMR – he is releasing works by Auckland sound artists on limited-edition lathe-cut records. As a performing artist, Francis has toured extensively, and from 2003-2006 he was involved in running ACROMA, an organisation that coordinated a series of experimental music events in Auckland that hosted local and visiting experimental sound artists. From 2004-2007, Francis was a member of the Alt.Music committee for New Zealand's experimental music festival and performance series. He is currently on the board of the New Zealand Audio Foundation.

### **Rosy Parlane**

Rosy Parlane is an experimental electronic musician whose recent recordings have been released by the UK label Touch. His full and intricate soundscapes are comprised of guitars, pianos, samples and digitally manipulated field recordings. He started his musical career in 1993 as drummer for avant-garde rock trio Thela, who released two CDs under indie label Ecstatic Peace!. After the group disbanded in 1997, Parlane moved into abstract electronic-based music and performed with ex-Thela member Dion Workman in their duo Parmentier. He has also collaborated with Austrian musician Christian Fennesz and been involved in experimental film soundtracks and gallery installations, including a 2002 performance at the Tate Modern Gallery in London. He recently performed at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the Ether Festival 2009.

### **Tim Coster**

Tim Coster graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (sculpture) from AUT University in 2002, and has since worked mainly as a sound artist, crafting audio releases, installations and performances. Auckland-based Coster uses field recordings and other gathered musical sounds, processing them by computer and digital/analogue looping devices to create shifting, delicate drone works. Coster has collaborated with various artists, and last year exhibited with Adam Willetts. He also produces the Claudia I label, which releases audio documents focused on field-recordings and computer sound. Claudia's first CD release was *Compact Listen* in 2007, a compilation featuring New Zealand artists curated for the High Street Project gallery.

#### GALLERY INFORMATION:

### **Maori Court (He Taonga Maori)**

The Maori court houses the world's largest and most significant collection of taonga. These taonga are the ancestral representations of the tribes of Aotearoa. The taonga provide descendants with tangible links to their ancestral landscapes, their history and the people that came before them. They embody spiritual power measured in terms of mana (ancestral authority), tapu (restriction from everyday being) and korero (narratives), and continue to be viewed as symbols of tribal identity.

### **Origins Gallery**

For over 600 million years this land has evolved and defined itself as unique in the world. The Origins Gallery picks up the story at the time when New Zealand began to break away from the vast continent of Gondwana. Cast adrift and alone, it was free to follow its own evolutionary destiny. It's a big story for a little country – starting with a prehistory that saw roaming dinosaurs and giant sea creatures.

### **Oceans Gallery**

The Oceans Gallery explores New Zealand's coastline and ocean depths. It features enormous models of our marine life, as well as live sea-anemones, fish and echinoderms (starfish and sea eggs). A replica segment of the 40-metre wall from the Poor Knights Marine Reserve has been recreated as close to reality as possible. It is a world filled with many strange and wonderful plants and animals and fascinating environments with the bright and colourful profusion of sponge, coral, shell and fish life.

### **Ancient Worlds**

Drawn from Auckland Museum's own collections, this gallery illustrates the depth and variety of ancient civilisations and cultures throughout the world. A focus of this gallery is Ancient Egypt from the pre-dynastic period to the Roman and Christian (Coptic) eras, including the display of the Museum's very own Mummy.

### **World War 1 Sanctuary**

The World War I Sanctuary is a monument to New Zealanders from the Auckland Province who served during the First World War. Engraved on the marble Roll of Honour are the names of all the men and women from the Auckland region who died while fighting for this young nation.

### **Volcanoes Gallery**

New Zealand's turbulent geological landscape is the subject of many scientific and human stories. This gallery space also offers interactive experiences, with deep-sea black smokers and a simulated volcanic eruption in Auckland.

### **Land Gallery**

The Land Gallery reveals the dramatic contrasts of New Zealand's environment, from snowy peaks to active volcanoes, limestone caves to lush sub-tropical forests and wetlands.

### **World War 2 Hall of Memories**

The World War 2 Hall of Memories was built as a monument to New Zealanders from the Auckland Province who served during the Second World World War.

**Landmarks: International Design and Decorative Arts**

This collection features works made by significant and well-known artisans and ranges from mid 1700s court fashion to the mid 1900s designs of Coco Chanel, from Art Nouveau and Bauhaus to 21st-century design featuring Maarten Baas' remarkable Clay Chair.