

I SWEAR I HEARD THIS...

DISCORD BRAG

Ed McKeon

@433 #Iswearlheardthis exhibition. no, it was a gig. well, it was a bit arty, so. anyhow, we were at the science museum and #IsweartoGod the floor was vibrating, the sound system was lit. the space was like the size of an olympic swimming pool and there were perhaps a dozen speakers on this balcony level, while the band, ensemble... whatever were exhibits in the centre, playing instruments that haven't been heard together since the '70s, like the vcs4 and shozygs #realinstruments. and this was next to a soviet-era computer array, this huge wooden thing – the [rugby tuning coil](#). but it was like the whole space was buzzing.

@nowayjose sounds epic! well...from the sublime to the ridiculous. #Iswearlheardthis guy wearing cricket whites singing something like a folk song but interrupted by people in the audience who bowled tomatoes at him that he batted with a crummy violin.
#nodrugsinvolved #noonewashurtinthisperformance

@433 you cannot be serious!

@nowayjose that would've been tennis...

@45secondreverb where was that?

@nowayjose cheltenham festival.

@45secondreverb wouldn't that be horses?

@nowayjose 🤔


@45secondreverb but have you been to a gig where there were no performers?

@433 i've been to some where there was no other audience! 🤔

@45secondreverb fun-ny... no, at this one the place was rammed. small venue though, 120 people, no performers. but #Iswearlheardthis singer from NYC, who was 'live' in one speaker, a percussionist in another speaker, 'live' from Vienna, and a cellist in a third speaker, 'live' from Boston.

@nowayjose ...but no performers in the venue yet they all paid good .

@45secondreverb of course. but the freaky thing was that we were invited to communicate with each other and with the musicians telepathically.

@weatherpresenter you're sh*tting us .

@45secondreverb would i?

@nowayjose ...

@weatherpresenter ...

@45secondreverb well we did, for an hour. there was a mic in the centre, and one of the crowd would go and speak a word into it, and then we'd focus on that together with the musicians. go figure...

@weatherpresenter actually i heard about this. it was at café oto, no?

@45secondreverb .

@weatherpresenter ok i can match you. i went to another gig there and #Iswearlheardthis guy having a zoom call with some psychic consultant or other, supposedly in miami, making songs, and getting us all to use telepathy to kill henry kissinger.

@433 and did it work?

@weatherpresenter about 3 weeks later .

@nowayjose i don't suppose agatha christie could've come up with that one.

@45secondreverb shame it wasn't a hardcore gig or it would've given a new meaning to #deathmetal

@433 so how are we going to beat those?

@nowayjose put on our own show?

@433 now you mention it...

@45secondverb you mean, like, reflecting sound off the moon or using sub-bass frequencies that make a building sound like it might collapse?

@433 that's the vibe. or playing music by amplifying cactus plants and plucking them...

@nowayjose or having a performer being tickled on a ladder for 45'?

@weatherpresenter the classics... actually, now you come to mention it, i have this idea for the national museum of norway.

@45secondverb #wereallears...

@nowayjose #b

@433 let's talk offline #silence

Ed McKeon is a Visiting Research Fellow at Birmingham School of Art and lectures at Goldsmiths, University of London. He writes on, researches, and produces new and experimental music and art, with a particular focus on curatorial theory and practice.



Thanks to Andy Ingamells for this image from his performance of *He that plays the English Gentleman shall be welcome* at Cheltenham Festival, 9 July 2016.