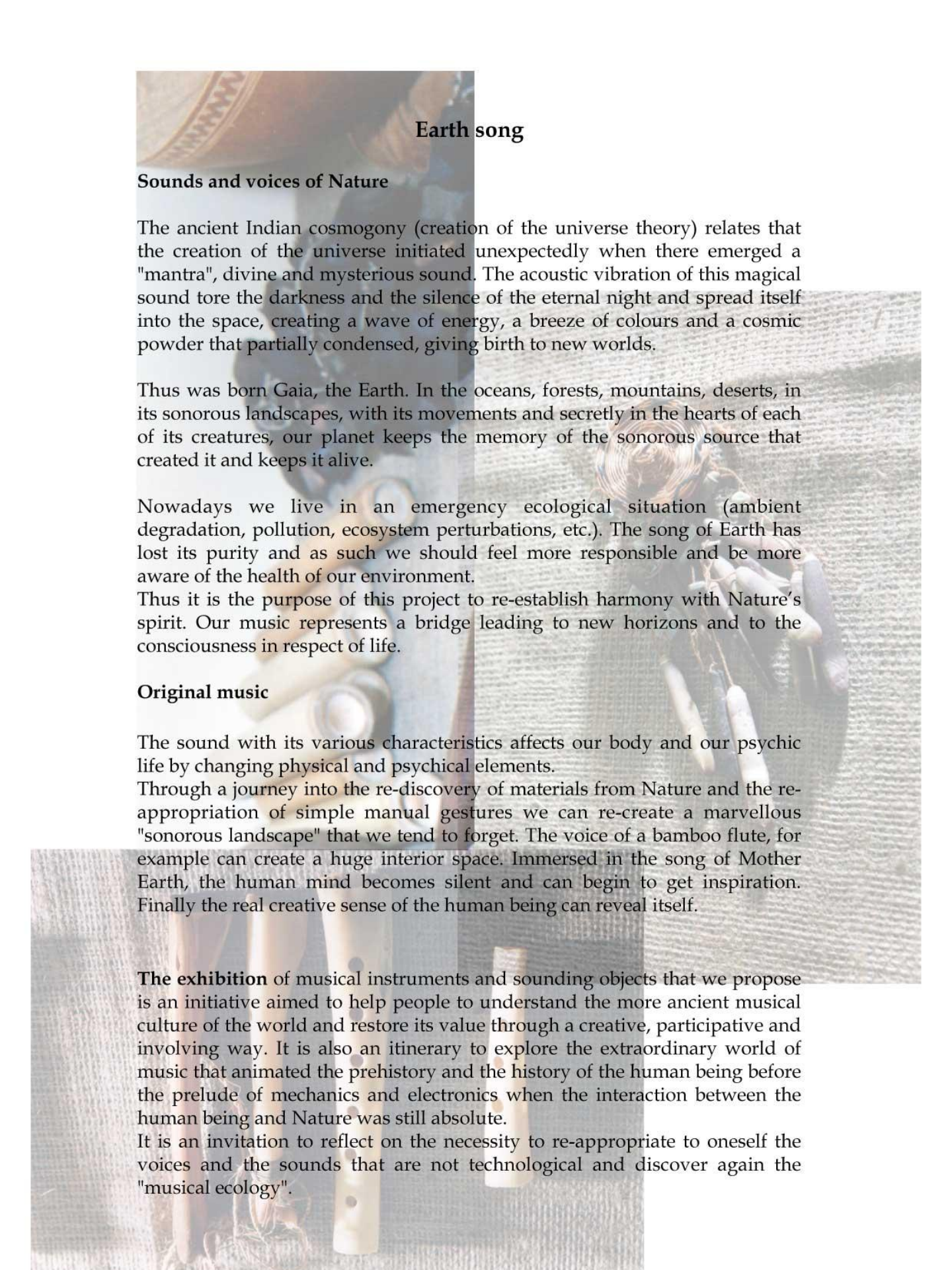


“The science of singing for singing,
only canes in the wind and water in the sea own it.”
(Federico García Lorca)



Sounds and Music of Nature



Earth song

Sounds and voices of Nature

The ancient Indian cosmogony (creation of the universe theory) relates that the creation of the universe initiated unexpectedly when there emerged a "mantra", divine and mysterious sound. The acoustic vibration of this magical sound tore the darkness and the silence of the eternal night and spread itself into the space, creating a wave of energy, a breeze of colours and a cosmic powder that partially condensed, giving birth to new worlds.

Thus was born Gaia, the Earth. In the oceans, forests, mountains, deserts, in its sonorous landscapes, with its movements and secretly in the hearts of each of its creatures, our planet keeps the memory of the sonorous source that created it and keeps it alive.

Nowadays we live in an emergency ecological situation (ambient degradation, pollution, ecosystem perturbations, etc.). The song of Earth has lost its purity and as such we should feel more responsible and be more aware of the health of our environment.

Thus it is the purpose of this project to re-establish harmony with Nature's spirit. Our music represents a bridge leading to new horizons and to the consciousness in respect of life.

Original music

The sound with its various characteristics affects our body and our psychic life by changing physical and psychological elements.

Through a journey into the re-discovery of materials from Nature and the re-appropriation of simple manual gestures we can re-create a marvellous "sonorous landscape" that we tend to forget. The voice of a bamboo flute, for example can create a huge interior space. Immersed in the song of Mother Earth, the human mind becomes silent and can begin to get inspiration. Finally the real creative sense of the human being can reveal itself.

The exhibition of musical instruments and sounding objects that we propose is an initiative aimed to help people to understand the more ancient musical culture of the world and restore its value through a creative, participative and involving way. It is also an itinerary to explore the extraordinary world of music that animated the prehistory and the history of the human being before the prelude of mechanics and electronics when the interaction between the human being and Nature was still absolute.

It is an invitation to reflect on the necessity to re-appropriate to oneself the voices and the sounds that are not technological and discover again the "musical ecology".

The art of playing natural instruments

Through the sounds of natural materials, this testimony to a way of life that conjugates with economy, creativity, resources, experience and wisdom, enables us to go back to the origin of our own personal histories.

This involves and requires the 5 senses.

The exhibition contains and documents, through explanations, photographs, hundreds of sounding objects and musical instruments originating from the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdom. It is presented as a journey calling our senses: seeing, feeling, touching, hearing and playing.

It is essentially dedicated to children, as it is a cultural and didactic moment as well as a space calling for participation and collective involvement, but it can also satisfy any kind of audience.

As they come along visitors are immersed immediately in a musical environment and are invited to a musical improvisation supervised by a professional artist who has dedicated himself to the research and experimentation of natural sounds and music.

Musical instruments bring the visitors into the heart of the primordial sounds of the world.

In the main, the exhibition is composed of a reconstitution of sounding objects from the prehistoric period, in particular from the Superior Palaeolithic.

The rest is constituted by a collection of musical instruments close to Nature's population ("popoli") coming from various world continents.

We first draw attention to objects adapted to be played as they would be in Nature or that have received a minimum human intervention. The intention is to investigate the concept that everything has got its own "voice", a specific sonorous characteristic that tells us all about itself, revealing its own qualities.

Xylophones, woods and stones to beat, bull roars, pumpkins and shells transformed into trumpets, strings, horns to communicate from a distance, flutes, Jew's harps, bells and bells' collars in bamboo, feathers and seeds' whispers, bone's percussions, etc... are part of the entire orchestration.

The laboratory – workshops

The laboratorial activity is an innovative and educative musical project supporting the exhibition of natural instruments.

It enables the children, used to a "passive" listening and confronted to technological instruments or materials which have deprived them of the creative experience, to refine their ears to unusual sounds, to use raw material, to stimulate their involvement and participation in the game of musical improvisation.

Through the use of musical instruments, children can express their own musical creativity, inventing rhythms and melodies relative to their own personalities without having to adapt themselves to a pre-structured music, but reaching sounds from landscapes, such as equatorial forests, seas, deserts, etc.

Stimulating the conscious listening of sounds is one of the educative aims of this project, "acoustic discrimination capacity".

Original sounds produced by various natural instruments are the priority.

It is important to stir up children's interests on an "active listening" basis enabling them to approach various world music styles.

A didactic route facilitates enjoyment and involvement in the discovery of unusual music instruments, in the creation of a non-verbal language, a new music with other participants.

Expressing themselves through sounds, vocals, gestures, dance and choreography, participants can acquire the first rules of composition and collective improvisation.

Provisional costs:

Exhibition of natural instruments: £9000 for a one month period, with 25% payment in advance.

This price includes the installation, the presence of an expert during the exhibition opening hours and for the workshops.

Excluding travelling and accommodation expenses.

This price is subject to change depending upon the duration of the exhibition, the number of workshops and other expenses.

Technical requirements:

A wide and silent room with big tables, display cabinets, panels and frames for the installation of photographic material and didactic brief reports and logos.