

# caving

Benjamin Harrison  
Elliot Buchanan  
Martyn Riley

The Swiss Church  
18th - 23rd July 2023

**Caving** is an investigation into archaeoacoustic histories of resonance and how the relationship between sound and space can allow access to the divine. The sound installation is a negotiation between the acoustic properties of The Swiss Church and its resonant frequencies to create complex harmonies and resonant entanglements.

In the aural consciousness of our ancestors, large resonant spaces were imbued with an unknowable yet undeniable meaning; spiritual and divine in its essence. Humans would have encountered these experiences initially at natural sites such as caves or valleys, and this lineage of resonance and spiritual experiences can be traced to sacred spaces such as The Swiss Church.

Mirroring the encounters of early humans as they sought to understand the causal meaning of the unknowable, the work elicits transgenerational experiences of resonance through hidden sounds. Drawing on archaeoacoustic research, the installation references the figure of the *echea*. Historically *echea*, or acoustic vases, were installed within sacred spaces and amphitheatres to alter the acoustics. The piece posits these vases as material allegory; alluding to this ancient technique.

The sonic material of the work is informed by acoustic measurements of the space to locate the unique resonant frequencies, producing a dialogical and mutually affective soundspace.

**Vocalists:**

John Antony Thadicaran

Lydia Kotsirea

Travis Yu

Katrina Stamatopoulos

Valeria Radchenko

Kristina May

Seraphina Simone

Elliot Buchanan

## **Benjamin Harrison**

@benjaminfdh / benjaminharrisonsound.com

Benjamin's work inquires into the spatiotemporal possibilities of sound through expanded listenings, locational histories and creative reconstruction of placio-experiential phenomena.

## **Elliot Buchanan**

@\_elliotbuchanan / elliotbuchanan.com

Elliot Buchanan is a London based Sound Artist who investigates interrelationality and the emergence of plural knowledges through the lens of a sonic metaphysics. His practice explores the in-between of reality and irreality through encountering the unknown.

## **Martyn Riley**

@martyn\_riley\_sound / martynriley.co.uk

Martyn Riley is a North-London based Sound Artist and Experimental Musician, originating from Derbyshire. His art practice specialises in memory and sound-triggers in relation to found sculptural objects, moving image and sonic fictions. Martyn employs experimental extended recording techniques and the manipulation of sonic landscapes to challenge listeners perceptions in relation to their spatial environment.

This exhibition is the result of a collaboration between The Swiss Church and the MA Sound Arts programme at UAL.

