

Pursuit: Call for involvement

The Project

Internationally acclaimed composer & violinist, Jon Rose and sound artist Robin Fox are the creative powerhouses behind *Pursuit*, a pedal-powered orchestra which will inhabit MONA FOMA's Festival Hub, Princes Wharf 1, with a spectacle of speed, sound and light.

Pursuit is a chamber orchestra of mobile bicycle-powered acoustic musical instruments with wireless transmission technology, choreographed to build dramatically from the elemental and the local, to a full-scale live performance integrating sound with giant screen action. Using everything from horns on handlebars to complex constructions with wind, string or piano actions, the work challenges ideas about music, the performance of music, how music is produced, and how sound exists in space, and bends real-time. The pedalling speed of the cyclists modulates the instruments' pitch and tempo, and is augmented by pulsing doppler-shift as the bicycles shoot past, while the cavernous reverb of Princes Wharf 1 and large projections will synchronize the immersion into a unique experience.

Jon Rose and Robin Fox, with their two collaborating instrument builders, will conduct a week-long residency in Hobart to build more bike instruments with the local community before the opening weekend PW1 performances. The Pursuit Project truly places itself in the nexus between art, sport and ecology.

The Mechanicals Residency

A great experience for those interested in creating from pedal power, the Pursuit residency is an exciting opportunity for Hobart artists, sculptors, music makers, inventors and imaginists. Ten candidates will be selected for the residency, which will take place from the 6th - 8th January at the University of Tasmania School of Arts, culminating in the performance at the Princes Wharf on the evening of Saturday 9th January.

We are looking for do-it-yourself folks who want to make a bicycle powered musical instrument or noise making machine. This can be anything from clickers on the wheel spokes to much more sophisticated contraptions (eg. the artists have already created violins, organ pipes, DJ turntable, drums, guitar, and a kitchen sink which are powered by moving bicycle). We can help realise your designs with a fully equipped workshop and team. See the following website for examples http://www.jonroseweb.com/f_projects_pursuit.html

Please note you will need to BYO bike and provide all parts required in the construction of your instrument. Pursuit artists will be on hand to mentor you through the construction process and assist with ideas.

If you are interested in building a bicycle instrument to take part in Pursuit, please submit a proposal to enquiries@mofo.net.au by Monday 14th December 2009. Proposals need to include a brief bio (max one page), a description of your ideas for an instrument and an outline of what materials you will be using to create this instrument, along with your name and contact details.

Successful candidates will be notified by 20th December 2009 and will need to be available for the workshop dates in January. It is anticipated successful candidates may need to prepare some components for their bike prior to the workshop.

The Unlikely Orchestra: Community Involvement

Pursuit is a highlight event in the opening weekend of Mona Foma that has us very excited! Launched on November 14th with a mass descent of bell ringing cyclists from Mt Wellington to Salamanca, the Pursuit project would love to grow this unlikely orchestra for the performance and want you to be involved.

We invite you to participate in certain sections of the performance, which runs for 2 hours in total, on 9th January.

To join the performance you will need a bicycle (and be able to ride it) with front and rear lights – as it is a night time performance. There are three choices to be involved in one or more of three sections:

- be part of the bell orchestra, put 2 or 3 different tuned bells on your handle bars;
- be part of the horn orchestra, put 2 or 3 different tuned horns/klaxons on your handle bars; or
- as a singer, you must be able to sing one note at a time, (the louder the voice the better), should be able to hold a pitch as part of a simple chord (the note will be given to you). There will be a couple of simple cues. No written music involved. The singing part of the performance will last about 15-20 minutes towards the end of the piece.

You need to be available for a rehearsal in the afternoon of the 9th ahead of the performance that evening. Please email your name and contact details by December 18th to enquiries@mofonet.au.

For any enquiries, please contact Penny Camens at Mona Foma on enquiries@mofonet.au or phone 6234 8414.