

ARTISTIC PROPOSAL

THESE THINGS WE FEEL

Anglophone texts and poems woven into live ambient soundscapes,
punctuated by haunting songs.

An intimate, lightweight and self-contained form for small, unusual or
outdoor spaces.

Wilde / Woolf / Blake / Brontë / Poe / Others · Voice & live sound — Paul Peterson

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THE PROJECT

These Things We Feel

Anglophone texts and poems woven into live ambient soundscapes, punctuated by haunting songs. An intimate, lightweight and self-contained form for small, unusual or outdoor spaces.

"These Things We Feel" is a project of musical readings in English designed for libraries, local cultural venues, gardens and unusual spaces. The project brings together texts by major English-language authors with live musical creation, in a deliberately light and intimate form. Voice, literature, ambient textures, guitar, electronic effects and sampler meet to create a listening experience centred on emotions, language and imagination. The whole set-up can be completely electrically autonomous if required. My installation needs no mains connection, opening up a wide range of possibilities and places to perform. Oscar Wilde was the starting point for the project and remains an important first inspiration. Other authors have gradually joined this initial idea, notably Virginia Woolf, William Blake, Emily Brontë and Edgar Allan Poe. The selection will remain deliberately open: the repertoire is made up of texts by English-language authors whose works are in the public domain, performed in their original language, and may evolve as I make new discoveries and find new inspirations. The texts are chosen for their ability to resonate with deeply human experiences: solitude, desire, love, loss, memory, beauty, death, doubt and resilience. Emotion is genuinely the guiding thread of the project. This dimension is also informed by my training in Rogerian active listening and the person-centred approach. This experience of listening is an important driving force in my work: paying attention to what words provoke, to what is said, but also to what can be felt without necessarily being put into words. This is therefore not a conventional literary reading, but a meeting between text, voice and sound, in which the music accompanies, extends or sometimes contrasts with the words. The fact that the texts are in English is an essential part of the project. The audience does not necessarily need to understand every word in order to enter the experience: the voice, rhythm, musicality of the language and emotion can be heard and felt beyond literal understanding.

FORM

The set-up

The format is deliberately minimal: one voice, one guitar, effects, a sampler and a portable self-powered PA system. This light set-up allows the project to adapt easily to different spaces, including small rooms, reading areas, gardens and outdoor locations. The installation can operate entirely from battery power, without any mains electricity connection.

Other possibilities

The project can also lead to other complementary proposals, depending on the wishes of the library or venue and its audiences: Musical siesta A completely musical proposal, without spoken words, conceived as a moment of listening and relaxation. Guitar, electronics, loops and ambient textures create a soundscape in which the audience can simply settle in and listen. Stories and readings for children

Stories or texts from English-language children's literature, accompanied by music and sound atmospheres, offering a playful introduction to the English language. "À la carte" readings in English The content can also be chosen according to the audience and the wishes of the library or venue: short stories, children's literature, tales, extracts by English-language authors or texts around a particular theme.

THE ARTIST

Paul Peterson

A musician, performer and sound artist, I was born in Hull, Yorkshire, and hold both British and French nationality. Bilingual in French and English, I have developed an artistic practice since 1985 at the crossroads of music, performance, theatre and the visual arts. Trained first in Fine Arts and then in Sonic Art and Time-Based Arts, I have taken part in more than 5,000 concerts and performances across Europe, the United States and Morocco. Based in France since 2001, I worked for many years with the Sarthe-based companies Jamais 203 and Marie Lenfant on creations combining theatre, dance, music, video and performance. My personal work today moves through ambient, folk, lo-fi, electronic and cinematic worlds, both solo and with my musical duo "Capitan". I also lead educational projects and workshops around music, computer-based music production, experimental and improvised music, poetry and cinema, in schools, secondary schools, universities and specialist institutions working with people with disabilities. Please see my attached CV and biography for further information. I would be very happy to present the project to you and discuss how this proposal might fit your programme and your audiences. Yours sincerely, Paul Peterson
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| Voice · text · sound · emotion

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