

**M1. MUSIC SESSION 1****M1.5 Simon Blackmore***Cryptoguitar*

In this performance I will play an improvised piece of guitar music where the movements of my right hand execute rhythmic binary patterns to produce text. The work is the result of research into musical cryptograms, codes and secret messages encoded into instrumental music and an exploration of real time rhythmic computer interaction. The work also draws inspiration from my time studying flamenco guitar with artists such as Jose Manuel Leon and Gerardo Nuñez.

Custom technology has been developed to produce this work. A light based guitar pickup captures the movement of each guitar string. Another circuit based on a serial interface interprets each note played as a 1 and silence as 0. The resulting binary patterns are then translated into ASCII text which is revealed live to the audience. The result is a playful exploration of the space between music, meaning, code and live interaction.

Duration: 8' 00"

Year of Composition: 2019

**Simon Blackmore** makes performative sculptures and installations using sound and custom-made technology. Since gaining a First Class Honours degree in Sculpture at The University of Wales Institute, Cardiff in 1999, and an MA in Creative Technology at Salford University in 2001, he has received numerous commissions and exhibited in galleries Internationally.

In 2006 he was nominated for the Becks Futures Prize, he was artist in residence in Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia in 2007, and in 2008 he was awarded the Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship. In September 2013 his work was presented in a solo show at Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, USA.

He is also a founding member of the art group Owl Project. Known for their distinctive range of wooden musical and sculptural instruments. Owl Project won the Urbis Best of Manchester award in 2009.

In 2012 their project Flow was launched in Newcastle and attracted over 50,000 visitors. Owl project have performed and exhibited internationally, including performances at Les Urbaines Festival (Lausanne, Switzerland), SARC, (Belfast, Ireland) 2009, and a solo show at Lydgalleriet, (Bergen, Norway) 2008. Their recent work was presented in a solo show at Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden in August 2013.