



# *EARTH OF THE SLUMBERING AND LIQUID TREES*

ROLI KEYBOARDS AND ANALOGUE SYNTHESIZERS  
IN 360-DEGREE MULTI-SPEAKER SURROUND SOUND

COMPOSED BY BENJAMIN TASSIE  
PERFORMED BY ZUBIN KANGA

Composer **Benjamin Tassie** has worked with pianist **Zubin Kanga** to create a new large-scale musical work as part of Royal Holloway's UKRI-funded research project, 'Cyborg Soloists'. To make the piece, Benjamin has visited and recorded some of the world's most important historical organs including the 1479 Van Straten pipe organ held in the collection at Orgelpark, Amsterdam, a 1680 chamber organ in the collection at St Cecelia's Hall, Edinburgh, and a late 16<sup>th</sup> Century cabinet organ (thought to be the oldest organ in England) in the private collection at Knole House, Kent. In the piece, *Earth of the Slumbering and Liquid Trees*, these ancient instruments will be transformed using the latest technology; performed using the innovative '4D' ROLI keyboards, combined with analogue synthesisers, and presented in 360-degree multi-speaker surround-sound.

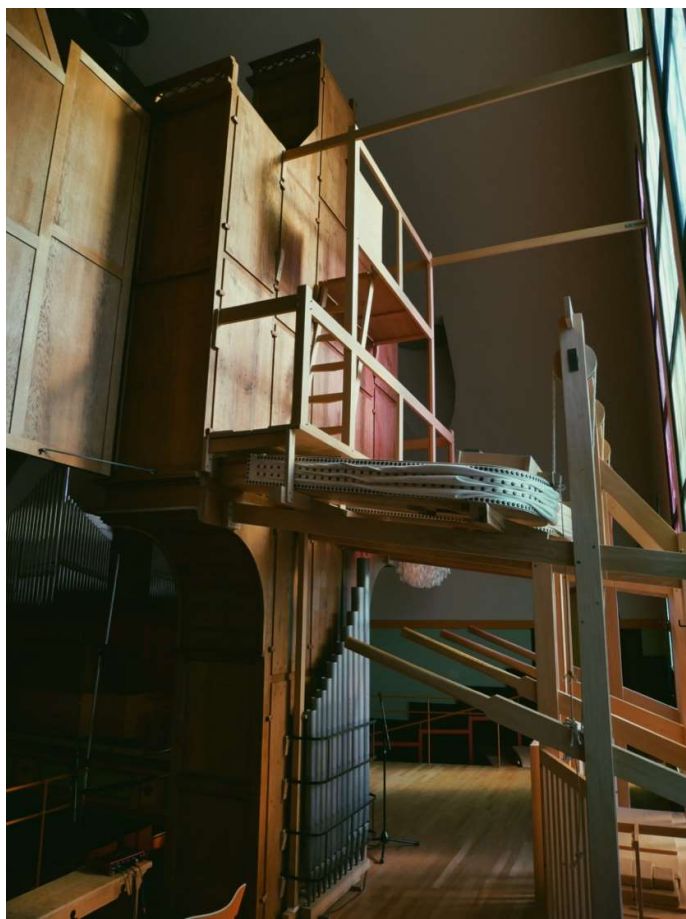
Benjamin's new work is monolithic; a 70 minute-long immersion in organ and synthesiser sound. New digital sampler instruments will be performed using ROLI keyboards, allowing Zubin to sculpt and transform the sound of these historic organs, manipulating their timbre, pitch, and colour as he plays. By incorporating analogue synthesisers, the performance will make connections across the centuries from Medieval church organs to 1960s synthesiser music, and beyond. Further, reflecting the immensity of church and cathedral organs, the work will be programmed in quadraphonic sound with the audience seated within an enveloping circle of loudspeakers, immersed within a multi-layered generosity of sound. Engaging with ideas of contemplation, ritual, and transformation, *Earth of the Slumbering and Liquid Trees* will offer a space for reflection and joyful sensory immersion, bringing together ancient and contemporary technologies and instruments to create a unique and truly extraordinary experience.

With thanks to: Orgelpark, The National Trust, Lord Sackville, the University of Edinburgh. UKRI, Royal Holloway, University of London, & ROLI





The cabinet organ at Knole House, Kent



Bellows of the Van Straten organ at Orgelpark, Amsterdam



The Chamber organ at St Cecilia's Hall, Edinburgh



Detail of the Knole House cabinet organ

**Benjamin Tassie** is a composer of electronic and acoustic music. Often combining historical instrumentation with analogue synthesisers, Benjamin is interested in how ancient instruments, forms, repertoire, or tuning systems can be recontextualised to speak to our contemporary experiences. Recent projects include *Solo for Computer and Tape*, a filmed installation for The National Gallery in London, *Quartet for a Landscape*, a collaboration with Icelandic Baroque quartet Nordic Affect, and *Accrete*, a site-specific sound installation for the London Festival of Architecture and Mary Duggan Architects.

Elsewhere, Benjamin has written music for Tate Britain, Rambert Dance, the Ligeti Quartet, Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, V&A, Juice Vocal Ensemble, and the Britten Sinfonia. His music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, 6 Music, Resonance FM, and on BBC Sounds.

Benjamin is recipient of the prestigious PRS Foundation and Jerwood Arts Composers' Fund Award and he was shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Award. Other awards include an Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice grant, Jerwood Arts bursary, Sound and Music New Voices Award, and PRSF Composers Award. He is a broadcaster on Resonance FM and is completing his PhD at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire under the supervision of Professor Joe Cutler where his project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

[www.benjamin-tassie.com](http://www.benjamin-tassie.com)



**Zubin Kanga** is a pianist, composer, and technologist. For over a decade, he has been at the forefront of curating and creating interdisciplinary musical programmes that seek to explore and redefine what it means to be a performer through interactions with new technologies.

In 2020, following his appointment as Lecturer in Musical Performance and Digital Arts at Royal Holloway University, Kanga was awarded a £1.4 million UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship to fund his latest multi-year project Cyborg Soloists, which is unlocking new possibilities in composition and performance through interactions with AI and machine learning, interactive visuals and VR, motion and biosensors, and new hybrid instruments. His Cyborg Soloists work was recently featured in The New York Times, The Wire and Limelight Magazine.



Zubin has premiered more than 150 works and performed at many international festivals including the BBC Proms, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, London Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Melbourne Festival (Australia), Modulus (Canada), Musica Strasbourg, Festival Présences and Festival d'Automne Paris (France), Flagey Piano Days (Belgium), Time of Music (Finland), Klang (Denmark), PODIUM (Germany), Gaudeamus and November Music (Netherlands).

[www.zubinkanga.com](http://www.zubinkanga.com)

## ZUBIN KANGA IN PERFORMANCE

[Nicole Lizée – Hitchcock Etudes](#)

[Jon Rose – Ballast](#)

[Alexander Schubert – WIKI-PIANO.NET \(HCMF performance\)](#)





Janet Cardiff's *40 Part Motet* – visual conceptualisation for surround-sound performance environment



The ROLI Seaboard RISE 49 Keyboard