

**PRESS/PHOTOCALL**

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2003  
Time: 6am  
Place: Showground, Ashton Court Estate, Bristol  
Event: **HOT AIR BALLOON ORCHESTRA TAKES TO SKIES**

Seven hot air balloons, carrying audio speakers, will take off from Ashton Court and fly over the city of Bristol in a new ground-breaking arts event.

Once airborne, different music from each hot air balloon will create a vast surround sound landscape spanning right across the city; a soundscape designed specifically for the sleeping Bristol audience below.

The Balloon Orchestra is a collaborative project by individuals from far reaching disciplines. Installation artist Luke Jerram is working with hot air balloon pilot Peter Dalby and the film composer Dan Jones who has worked hard to master this new found medium.

"Different balloons will carry different sections of the final work and like whales calling in the ocean the same sounds may be heard in quick succession, passing across the sky from one balloon to another." said Luke.

The airborne project is a continuously moving, continuously evolving orchestra of musical sounds on an unprecedented scale. Sleep psychologists from the University of Bristol and from the University of West of England were consulted to help ensure that the sounds would have the desired effect on its audience's semiconscious state.

Luke explains "By creating vast but gentle soundscapes across the city, we hope to create visionary landscapes within our audience's half-conscious imagination as they lie in their beds at home.

"We hope to place people in a space somewhere on the edge of sleep in a meditative waking state, and then to inspire their imagination with music and spatial sound. We hope they find the music to be very beautiful."

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for a composer and sound designer. The entire scenario is itself dreamlike; a literally unearthly experience that I hope will leave people feeling inspired. This is music released from the confines of gravity." adds Dan.

At this stage the project is being supported by Motaman, Pioneer, The Music Room, and NESTA. (The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts). It is hoped the project will tour balloon festivals in the UK and Europe.

- Ends -

#### Notes to the Editor

1. Event timing: as with all hot air ballooning, this event is weather dependent and timing may change nearer the date. Please check [www.lukejerram.com](http://www.lukejerram.com) for an update
2. Dan Jones is an internationally renowned film composer and sound designer creating works for major films, such as Shadow the Vampire, and Max. He has recently worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra composing music for Sir David Attenborough's BBC series The Life of Mammals. He contributed music for Isaac Julien's Paradise Omeros [www.fabermusic.co.uk/fabermusic/film\\_tv/index](http://www.fabermusic.co.uk/fabermusic/film_tv/index).
3. Luke Jerram is an international installation artist. He recently created an artwork controlled by the gravitational pull of the moon called Tide which has exhibited around the world. He has been awarded a fellowship from NESTA to break new ground with his artistic practice. [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk) [www.lukejerram.com](http://www.lukejerram.com)
4. Pete Dalby is a professional hot air balloonist and is director of Phoenix Balloons. Whilst touring his hot air balloons in countries around the world he studies art at the Bristol School of Fine art. [www.phoenixballons.com](http://www.phoenixballons.com)