CODA FESTIVAL 2020

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

Wednesday 17 June

5pm: Infinite Opera: Besse Trilogy
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01
Follow the operatic story of beer swilling Besse, through a series of catastrophic events including: the Black Death, a Third-Wave-Feminist Witch, Dramatic Massacres, Dancing Zombies, a Thunder-Stealing Inquisitor, and more! Grab a drink and settle in for a streaming of Infinite Opera's performance at DigBrew Co.
Performance by Infinite Opera
Music by Daniel Blanco Albert
Libretto by Roxanne Korda
Documentation: James Abel
Video edit: Daniel Blanco Albert

7:30pm James McIlwrath: How to cope with how to cope
Platform: @jauntyjames on Instagram (only on mobile phones and tablets)
join james as he teaches you (but more importantly, himself) how to change all that anxious, angsty energy into a nutritious, edible treat for all the family*. turn that frown (let's face it, probably caused by your crippling existential dread) upside down.
(*actual results may vary)
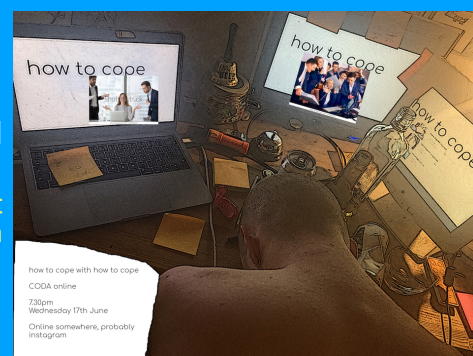
8:30pm: Emily Abdy: Closed Conservatoire
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01
Emily Abdy's 'Closed Conservatoire' (aka The Conservatoire Vlogs: The Greatest Hits) is a YouTube documentary, in which Emily Abdy gives viewers the chance to get brief glimpses into the worlds of conservatoire music students and ensembles that they would not normally come into contact with or experience up close. In most cases this means interviewing people with musical practices of some kind, or just generally belonging to bands not known to exist by most or considered unconventional. It was first shown in the United Kingdom on YouTube. In 2019, Abdy was awarded a first class degree in music composition as well as 68 in her major project for her work on the series.

EMILY ABDY'S CLOSED CONSERVATOIRE

around 9:30pm (straight after Emily Abdy's performance): Zooming in
Platform: Please register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuc-qtpjIsGtF2vBKo45G7-Kzn6k4iiFL3 and you will be sent the link to the video chat.
Chat about what's happened today. Ask the artists anything you want. Join us for a 40 minute afterparty.

Thursday 18 June

5pm Tanna Chamberlain/Kat Wallace: Treasure Hunt
Platform: Add your name & email address to this Google sheet in the relevant section: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rl6lyZF0mPoYMsPtg02bWU4IQ8Ti_MwoZRDyxts0Nwg/edit?usp=sharing and click on the registration link within the Google sheet to register online.

We ask the audience to participate in finding 'treasure' (in the form of everyday household items), guided by musical, visual, poetic and movement-based clues. Points will be awarded for correctness and creativity.
Those who just wish to watch can still register to join the Zoom meeting, but please keep your microphone muted and camera off.

7pm Difficult Listening: 'Aria Cuntata and the Black Holes
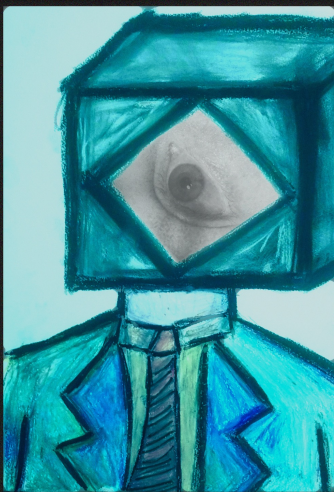**Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01**

Being a drag queen alone in space is not a piece of cake. 'Aria Cuntata and the Black Holes is a 37-minute audio/video performance about an extraordinary journey: a drag queen cruises space alone in her space ship looking for black holes. Her only contact is with Paul, very far away, at ground control. On her lonely space voyage they make music, tell stories about the past, the science of black holes, meeting your boyfriend's mother for the first time, a hatred of cars and more. Facts, fake facts, music about facts and fake facts, stories about music and space will result in an experience that is as hard to categorise as 'Aria's voyage itself… What is that bitch looking for?
Created by Michael Wolters, Paul Norman and Oliver Clark with thanks to Alex Lacey, Alex Taylor and Philip Glass.

To Be Sincere
(sound+vision)

8pm: Riadh Bouassab: To Be Sincere
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01

First?
A Lobster, a Bunny and a Lamb are in one place.
With the help of the two hosts they are able to go to a different place.
Artemis has the Elephants Jaw and the song is unending.
This is the first in a series of…
…burnt…
offerings.

By
R.

10pm: Zygmund de Somogyi and Spike McLarrity: Dive//Triptych
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01
A lockdown collaboration between performance artist Spike Mclarrity and composer Zygmund de Somogyi, 'Dive' and 'Triptych' are two of a series of abstract and highly personal performance art pieces created over a series of Skype sessions. The pieces portray the visceral and psychological impact of isolation, and the reconstruction of identity and individuality; how do we break free?

around 10:45pm (straight after Dive//Triptych): Zooming in
Platform: Please register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kd-ytqD0jHt3bJJKBgUOd2pVxCF5o78tb and you will be sent the link to the video chat.
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Friday 19 June

6pm: Stuart Stevens: All about and to a female artist
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01

Tonight we present the world premiere screening of the video of Stuart Stevens extraordinary melodrama *All About and To a Female Artist* with a text by Shelagh Delaney.

The story is well documented of the controversy and critical backlash caused by the West End debut of Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste Of Honey* in 1959. So, how do you respond to the bigoted male reviewers' cynical attitude towards you, formed because you are a young woman from a working class background in Salford? And what do you do with the sackfuls of begging letters and anonymous insults, even threats, now dropping through your letterbox? What Shelagh did was assemble the "best" of them into a collage of squawking heads and bleating mouths – she turned their meaningless meanderings into something worth printing.

I have taken this recycling a stage further, up-cycling Shelagh's intervention and creating a new music melodrama (as in, melody plus drama) – not opera, nor musical theatre, nor concert, nor play, yet containing elements of all of them. The piece is written in my unusual system of musical harmony, which uses 31 notes instead of the 12 on a standard piano.

Performed by Thumb and Thallein
Conducted by Dan Watson
Directed by Mark Croasdale
Video by Oli Clark
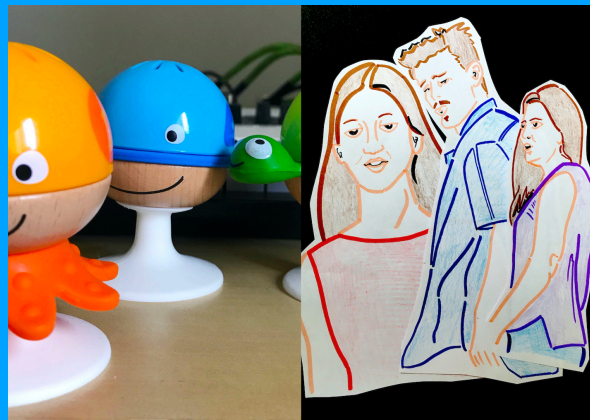
7:30pm Seán Clancy/Andy Ingamells: Antonio Guillem
Platform: Please register here to attend performance:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYucu6tqz4tE9cqletlss7XvpNpWdwCfEvE

A disjointed audio-visual narrative that toys with our nostalgia for the recent past. Seán and Andy use the "Best Meme of 2017" (Shorty Awards) to make art in the age of memetic reproduction and online performances, drawing attention
to their own creative process through tangential Twitter feeds and poor-man's electronic music.

**8:30pm: Luke Harrison: Big Beat Breakdown**
Platform: https://www.mycircle.tv/242-35499-01

Luke Harrison is a composer going into his final year at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The idea for this ensemble was to separate a drum kit out into four parts. His piece *Big Beat Breakdown* aims to create an image of "things turning on, and things falling off".
Performed by Alexander Henshaw, Andrew Woolcock, Simon Arriola and Jack Davis
Recorded at Centrala, Birmingham
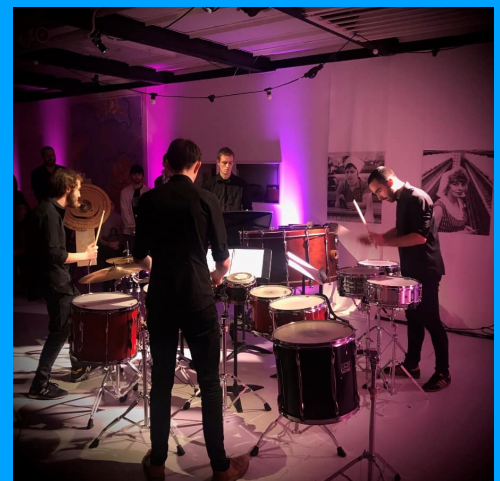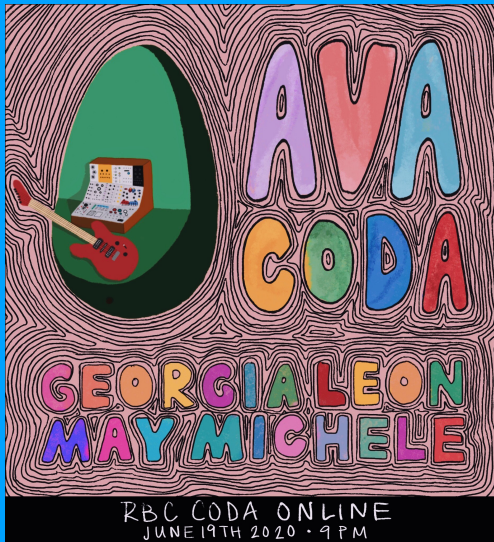
9pm: AV à CODA

Platforms:

Facebook: facebook.com/chromatouch

Twitter: @leolodreamland

Instagram: @leolodreamland

Programme:

May Chi - ambient works drawing from her connection with nature.
Leon Trimble - Gravity Synth. developed with the Institute for Gravitational Wave Astronomy.

Georgia Denham - warm vocals , hazy live reimaginings of songs & verses with improvised synth.
Michele Deiana - Veil. Audiovisual work with Claudio Bellini (video).

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