

SEAN NOONAN

<https://www.seannoonanmusic.com/>

Rhythmic storyteller Sean Patrick Noonan is a modern-day sonic griot, composing and conducting with a pair of drum sticks original multi-stylistic music, fusing discoveries from harmolodic jazz-rock to avant-garde chamber music. As a drummer, his compositions serve as an extension of his limbs, mapping out polyrhythmic language on the drum set using Sensory Percussion that is later structured with collected tone rows (Alban Berg), multi-temporal rhythms (Conlon Nancarrow) and aleatoric improvisation (John Cage, John Zorn)

I am using my time at the residency to compose works for Drumavox; a collaboration between myself, a drummer, and Coro Cum, a mixed Sardinian choir which will be recorded in Sardinia in June 2019. Drumavox is the name of both the collaboration and our planned first album. The album will consist of eight pieces for choir and electroacoustic drum set developing on my “wandering folk” theory; taking inspiration from the ever-evolving world music traditions through gathering stories, legends, and folklore like a punk-jazz Alan Lomax. The album will mix arrangements of pre-existing work with my new compositions.

I will use the time during the residency period to explore the possibilities of Sensory Percussion (<https://sunhou.se/>), a new interactive electro-acoustic sensor system for drum sets using contact microphones. This will further expand the soundworld afforded by the combination of human voice and percussion through techniques such as sample triggering and expand an acoustic instrument into the electronic domain. Sensory Percussion have lent me the equipment as an artistic sponsorship.

I will also begin a new work called ‘Otherworld’. This piece will be a book of motets. These motets will be inspired by Medieval Celtic mythology and fuse period isorhythmic motets, contemporary classical compositional techniques and death metal in a similar way that Roomful of Teeth’s repertoire spans musical styles and techniques.

Text: Sean Noonan