

PRESS RELEASE – For information

Sky Orchestra – A Moment in Time

- *Hot air balloons take to the skies, serenading the public in Luke Jerram/Dan Jones collaboration*
- *The music is newly commissioned for this project and performed by celebrated and emerging Bristol musicians*
- *Members of **Massive Attack** and **Portishead** plus Bristol City Poet Vanessa Kisuule are among the contributors*



Images from top left: previous Sky Orchestra over London, Switzerland (credit Thierry Grobet) and Bristol.

Bottom row: Luke Jerram in Sky Orchestra balloon; sketch of idea for project; inside balloon (Thierry Grobet)

[Click for high res image - London](#) [Click for high res image - Switzerland](#) [Click for high res image - Bristol](#) [Click for high res image - Luke](#) [Click for high res image - Sketch](#) [Click for high res image - inside balloon](#)

*Drone footage, video and stills of **Sky Orchestra** will be available after launch*

A flotilla of hot air balloons will deliver an uplifting musical and visual experience in surround sound to the people of Bristol as part of Sky Orchestra.

Serenading people with specially commissioned new music, **Sky Orchestra – A Moment in Time** was conceived as a way to perform from the air directly into people's homes, offering hope for the future and showcasing the creative talent of the city.

An arts project by renowned international Bristol artist Luke Jerram and Bristol-based BAFTA-winning composer Dan Jones, **Sky Orchestra – A Moment in Time** features the premiere of a new composition commissioned by Bristol Old Vic, and includes live accompaniment.

The incredible line-up of Bristol musical and artistic contributors joining forces for the project includes: Grant Marshall, founder member of Massive Attack, Stew Jackson, current writer and producer for Massive Attack, and Adrian Utley, founder member of Portishead, all involved in either creating or playing on the soundtrack. Several musicians, including emerging Bristol performer Jerome Gamble on electric guitar, will play instruments live in balloons during the Sky Orchestra performance.

Outgoing Bristol City Poet Vanessa Kisuule has written a spoken word contribution which she has recorded whilst renowned theatre and TV writer, composer and sound designer Elizabeth Purnell has created the string arrangements. Drew Morgan is the cello soloist for the piece. Emerging young Bristol talent performing includes Jo Bacon, Jerome Gamble and Joe Harding on the guitar, with Tom Nosek providing the vocals.

The artwork has been planned by Dan and Luke and developed in collaboration with Bristol Old Vic since the beginning of the lockdown. The local ballooning crews have been brought together by lead pilot Peter Dalby. To avoid public crowds turning up to watch the launch, the dates and times of the performance will be kept a secret.

People are encouraged to share their photos and video of the experience on social media, using the hashtag #skyorchestra. Funds raised from the sale of the EP of the musical composition, which will be available to stream via all mainstream music streaming services, will be donated to support emerging musicians in the city.

Sky Orchestra was first performed in the city at the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta in 2003, and in 2011 flew across the Capital for the London Olympics 2012.

Dan Jones, a BAFTA and three-time Ivor Novello award-winning composer who balances his time creating large scale musical artworks with a prolific career writing music for screen, is co-creating the new score. He said: "We're excited to be bringing together some of Bristol's most celebrated musicians alongside emerging young talent from across the city; Bristol continues to be a launchpad for musical innovation that spreads right around the world. This is a great opportunity for all of us to thank the city as a continued source of inspiration."

Luke Jerram, who is well known for artworks such as Museum of the Moon, Play Me I'm Yours and Park and Slide, explains: "As the city begins to breathe again and before we hold our breath to head into winter, we wanted a way to deliver an uplifting experience to people in their homes. Something spectacular, yet somehow intimate; to create a sense of renewal, hope and rebirth, to raise the public's spirits and mark a moment in time.

“I hope people enjoy Sky Orchestra and would love to see how people experience it from around the city but would urge everyone to remember social distancing guidelines if stopping to watch – and hear – it overhead. Please do share your photos and videos on social media, using the hashtag #skyorchestra.”

With seven hot air balloons positioned over a city, this makes it one of the largest surround sound artworks in the world.

Tom Morris from Bristol Old Vic, which commissioned the new musical score said: “All of Bristol is a theatre and the safest performance space in the world is the sky. Many performance venues in Bristol remain closed, but the need for inspiring work by our most extraordinary artists is greater than ever. We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with Luke and Dan and a host of Bristolian musicians on this wonderful project, their gift to the city during lockdown. May it bring hope and delight to all who see and hear it.”

Sky Orchestra – A Moment in Time is taking place with kind permission from Bristol City Council, within social distancing guidelines.

Ends

**For media enquiries, please contact Kierstan Lowe or Suzan Uzel at
hello@spiritpublicrelations.co.uk or by calling 0117 944 1415**

EDITORS NOTES

About the Sky Orchestra.

The Sky Orchestra have performed several times around the world. Their last performance over Bristol was back in 2003. In 2013 they flew over Derry/Londonderry for UK City of Culture. The Mayor of London and LIFT commissioned Sky Orchestra to fly over London to celebrate a year to go until the London Olympics 2012. In 2007 they launched the Sydney Festival and in 2006 they were commissioned by the RSC and Fierce to fly over Stratford-Upon-Avon.

www.skyorchestra.co.uk

About Luke Jerram

Luke Jerram’s multidisciplinary art practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the Bristol but working internationally since 1997, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the world.

Most recently his artwork the Museum of the Moon has been presented in different ways, more than 150 times in 30 different countries. Experienced by more than 10 million people worldwide, the artwork has

recently toured India with the [British Council](#), been presented at the [Commonwealth Games](#) in Australia and exhibited in Aarhus, Denmark for the [European Capital of Culture](#). Last year it was presented at [Glastonbury Festival](#) and even on BBC's [Strictly Come Dancing](#) in Blackpool.

In Bristol he is known for converting Park Street into a waterslide (Park and Slide - 2014), for installing street pianos across the city for the public to play (Play Me, I'm Yours – 2017), and the replica Moon he floated down the docks (Museum of the Moon 2020)

Earlier this year he was given an Honorary Doctorate from the [University of Bristol](#) and made an Honorary Academician of the [RWA](#).
www.lukejerram.com

About Dan Jones

Dan Jones is a Bristol-based [BAFTA](#) and [Ivor Novello Award](#) winning composer and sound designer working in film and theatre. He read music at the [University of Oxford](#), studied contemporary [music theatre](#) at the [Banff Centre for the Arts](#) and continued his studies into electronic music in Rome. He has created music and sound for many large scale artworks sometimes across entire cities, such as Hull's [City of Culture](#) opening event, *We Are Hull*, visited in one week by some 350,000 visitors, and his *Music for Seven Ice Cream Vans* which was recently recommissioned as part of the New Music Biennale at the Royal Festival Hall. He has scored the torch lighting ceremonies for both the Sochi and Rio Paralympics and for the last three years has overseen the sound design for one of the world's largest street parties, *Edinburgh's Hogmanay*.

He has composed and sound designed regularly for [The National Theatre](#), [RSC](#) and recently for Tom Morris's *Cyrano* at Bristol Old Vic. Recent scores for screen include *World On fire* (starring [Leslie Manville](#) and [Sean Bean](#)), *Flesh and Blood* (starring [Imelda Staunton](#)) *Dark Heart* and *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries*. Other scores for feature films include *On Chesil Beach* ([Saoirse Ronan](#)), *Lady Macbeth* (starring [Florence Pugh](#), World Soundtrack Award nominee 2017). *Shadow of the Vampire* (starring [John Malkovich](#) and [Willem Dafoe](#)), *In Transit* (also starring [John Malkovich](#)) and [Menno Meyjes'](#) *Max* (starring [John Cusack](#)), for which he received an [Ivor Novello Award](#) for Best Film Score 2004. He also scored Meyjes' follow up film *Manolete* (starring [Adrien Brody](#) and [Penélope Cruz](#)). In 2018 he was the first composer to receive two Ivor Novello nominations for Television Music in the same year for his scores for *SS-GB* and *The Miniaturist*, which went on to win.

About Bristol Old Vic

Bristol Old Vic is a theatre which is known to love meddling in music and city-wide spectacles. Performances restarted in the Courtyard Space at the front of the building in August 2020. Full details of current and future events can be found at Bristololdvic.org.uk.