

## Donald Busted *biography*



**Donald Busted** is a composer, sound and installation artist, film maker and guitarist. His most recent work focuses on combining elements of all these interests. Typically, the work completed in the last 17 years has sought to integrate elements of film, performance and live art plus multi-sourced electro-acoustic elements transmitted from varied 'qualities' of source (from 'high' quality PA to 'low' quality exciter-speakers). A number of works, including the installation with Gary O'Connor *broader than Broadway* and the mixed media pieces

*in your dreams; touch* and *the black hole* utilise, 'home-made' speakers made by attaching exciters to musical instruments, glass, floorboards and walls. This tranche of work has been sponsored by the pioneering British company NXT. The work *touch* (2005) specifically uses these different sources to give an expanded sense of virtuosity by attaching exciters to live instruments. Our perception of virtuosity is challenged as we hear sounds sourced on those instruments reintegrated within live-performed sounds.

Donald is a director and founder of Microtonal Projects, artistic director of EUROMicroFest and Forgotten Spaces and curator of the mixed media platform Wild Dog Inc.. He is an occasional performer of his own work for quarter-tone guitar.

His music/sound art has been performed throughout the UK, in America, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Czechoslovakia and Croatia and broadcast in the UK, America, the Netherlands, Sweden and France. His films have been screened in London, USA, Chile, Palestine and Russia and have been webcast and broadcast on HypTV (Sky TV).

Donald's music for recorder is published by Moeck Verlag in Germany, Orpheus Music in Australia and Questions de Tempéraments in France.

CD recordings include: *A Journey Among Travellers* (Kathryn Bennetts and Peter Bowman); *A Woldgate Requiem* (Kevin Bowyer); *Tears* (Tubalaté); *The Rhythm-Spring* (Summerhayes and Brown); *Yasser Describes his Polemic* (and adds some footnotes) (Stephen Altoft) and the electro-acoustic piece *Never Liked Water*. His widely-screened 1 minute film *The Birds* is available on a limited edition DVD

published by Host Artist's Group. A major, retrospective double CD/DVD of his work was released in the Autumn 2007 called 'The End of the Beginning'.

Donald has worked closely with a number of high-profile performers on specific projects: Stephen Altoft (trumpet); duo Contour (trumpet and percussion duo); Michael Dixon (horn); Kathryn Bennetts, Peter Bowman and Rachel Barnes (recorders); Kevin Bowyer (organ and harpsichord); John Powell (euphonium) and Philippe Renard (Renard/Bolton Electro-Acoustic Recorder Project). He has also collaborated with the film maker Robert Pennant Jones, artists Gary O'Connor and Anne Robinson and live artist Janina Moninska.

Donald's work as an artist in the areas of film, sound and installation have resulted in gallery showings at: 291, Cafe Projects, Lounge, and seven contemporary art (all London) and Al Kahf Art Gallery, Palestine. Film screenings have included: the 4th Hull International Short Film Festival; Greenwich Picture House; Loop, Barcelona; the Falmouth Film Festival; the SuperShorts Film Festival; Biennale of Video & New Media Santiago, Chile; Videologia Festival Volgograd, Russia; Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburg/USA and le festival international du premier film, Annonay, France.

Donald studied composition with Philip Cannon at the Royal College of Music, the late Oliver Hunt (privately) and Margaret Lucy Wilkins at the University of Huddersfield. He won the Cobbett Prize for Composition at the RCM in 1981. He was awarded a PhD in musical composition from the University of Huddersfield in 2002. He is a co-author of *The Quarter-Tone Recorder Manual* (Moeck, 1998) and co-founder and former Artistic Director of Ensemble QTR. Notable performance venues include: the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival; Bangor New Music Festival; Daegu International Musical Festival, South Korea; Darmstadt Ferienkürse für Neue Musik; St. John's Smith Square; the Berkeley Music Festival, California, USA; Musicora 97, Paris; The Purcell Room, London and the Teylers Museum, Holland.

Donald has written widely on the subjects of composition, microtonality and tuning and has presented seminars at many UK universities and abroad. He was the only British delegate at the first academic conference on microtonality in the USA at Claremont Colleges, California in 2001 where he presented a paper on microtonality and the recorder and, in 2002, he addressed the London Sinfonietta's 'State of the Nation' conference at the South Bank Centre, London. He has written for *Classical Guitar* and *The Recorder Magazine* and, in 2003, his article 'An Empirical Study of Quarter-Tone Intonation' was published in both the *Huygens-Fokker Yearbook* and *Contemporary Music Review*. He has given regular lectures with trumpeter Stephen Altoft with whom he has developed The

Microtonal Trumpet (see [www.microtonalprojects.com](http://www.microtonalprojects.com)) and with who he has written a manual and developed many educational resources.

As well as writing music, Donald has had a varied career as guitarist, conductor, producer and teacher. He studied the guitar with Antonio Albanes and conducting with Harry Newsome at the Guildhall School of Music and trained to be a teacher at Durham University. Between 1993-2001 he was a lecturer in Composition at the University of Huddersfield and from September 2001 to June 2002 he was the first appointed Composer-in-Residence at the Centre for New Musical Instruments at the London Guildhall University (funded by the Leverhulme Trust). He has also been a part-time lecturer in music technology at Kingston University. He has produced all Microtonal Projects CDs and has also produced for singer songwriter Kat Vipers. In 2009 Donald was a consultant for the Radio 4 programme 'More or Less' which featured an extract of his 19-div composition 'Verses 1'. Donald has also written for BBC TV, film, video and theatre. He is currently freelancing, based in London and Norfolk.

## **Articles by Donald Bousted**

### **Classical Guitar Magazine**

- 23 Reviews, 1992-94

### **The Recorder Magazine**

- Review of the 2nd International Blockflute and Electronics Festival, Amsterdam, Holland. Winter 1998, Vol. 18, No. 4
- Interview with the Malle Symen Quartet. Winter 1998, Vol. 18, No. 4
- Interview with Walter van Hauwe. Spring 1999, Vol. 19, No. 2
- Series of six articles from Autumn issue 2001 to Spring issue 2003:
  - 1) The Recorder: A vehicle for thoughts about life, the universe, etc.
  - 2) An Instrument of the 21st Century?
  - 3) Musical Elements Coming Together
  - 4) Tuning In: Intonation in Performance
  - 5) Microtonality, the Recorder and the Quarter-Tone Recorder Manual
  - 6) More Microtonality: ATS, ZNS
- Interview with Philippe Renard. Autumn 2003, Vol. 23, No. 3

### **Huygens-Fokker Yearbook and Contemporary Music Review**

- An Empirical Study of Quarter-Tone Intonation (2003)

## **Articles about Donald Bousted**

### **Avant Magazine**

- Independent Spirits - Donald Bousted. Article by Brian Marley (Vol. 12)
- [Online Interview](#) by SoundLAB

## **Selected Press Reviews**

*"Donald Bousted's cycle of microtonal pieces for recorders is dedicated to the proposition that this humble woodwind is destined to become, in the composer's own words, "a major protagonist in the music of the 21st Century". ... Bousted has created a series of tiny masterpieces. It would be reassuring to think that some small portion of the next millennium had been set aside for them. Wonders on so modest a scale tend to be in short supply these days."*

### **CD A Journey Among Travellers The Wire**

*"Alone and Three Miniatures ... are beautifully wrought, tailored exquisitely to their essential decorative purpose."*

### **Stephen Pettitt The Times**

*"Bousted is a major new arrival in British microtonal composition ... his music has great elegance, wit and substance."*

### **The British Harry Partch Society**

*"I was bowled over ... the music is at once thrilling and impassioned ... an immensely exciting organ work ... all in all a stunning example of contemporary writing, well suited to the organ, and worthy of making frequent appearances at recitals."*

### **A Woldgate Requiem The Organ**

*"Remarkable recorder music ... made such an impression ... really new and significant ... totally gripping and convincing."*

### **A Journey Among Travellers The American Recorder**

### **Detailed review of A Journey Among Travellers**