

## News and Events

Welcome to the The HopBarn's newsletter, which provides information and insights into The HopBarn, as well as offering further notification of up coming events and performances.

We hope that such information proves to be useful and informative to our readers, but if you would like to offer feedback and suggestions as to what to include or what to focus on, please feel free to e-mail or write in with your suggestions and we will try to accommodate them where best we can.

### A look back over October

According to their website, 'The Crocker Brothers aren't let out very often but you might be lucky enough to catch them here and there'. Well, despite this prestigious accolade, it was an absolute pleasure to get them to play The HopBarn at the beginning of October.



The Crocker Brothers with support by Betsy & Alex

Having played British Blue Grass for over 40 years, The Crocker Brothers don't dissappoint and the evening was a true testamont to the skill and dexterity needed by such musicians when playing such complex arrangements on the banjo, mandolin, dobra and acoustic guitar. It was a real delight to hear this genre of music played with such verve.

Whilst The Crocker Brothers have decades of experience and knowledge with them, support for the evening was provided by two young musicians who in many respects have only just started their musical journey.

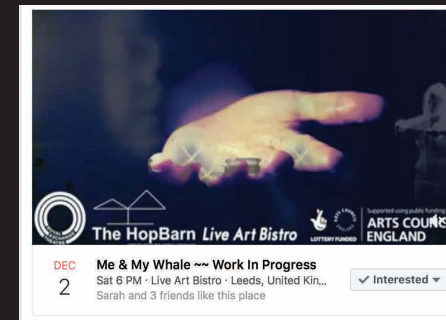
Betsy and Alex were heard one Saturday morning playing on Southwell Market Square. Despite not having the length and breadth of experience as The Crocker Brothers, their mature approach and arrangement of some well known covers alongside some original songs written and composed by Betsy presented a truly magical evening of work that delighted the audience.

The decision to invite Betsy and Alex to offer support for this evening's concert spawned further thinking by The HopBarn's Directors. In a similar capacity to Betsy and Alex, Hannah Barnett during the recent Late Summer Recital and 4 Doors Down are all young musicians who have played The HopBarn in support of a number of main acts.

This has got The HopBarn thinking about how specific events could be programmed for young musicians who wish to have similar performance opportunities.

Keep reading as there is now a unique opportunity for young musicians to come and play at The HopBarn....

### Xavier Velastin - Me and My Whale



It is great news to hear that Xavier Velastin's work *Me and My Whale*, which was developed at The HopBarn in early September has been awarded funding from the Arts Council of England's Grants for the Arts Programme.

The work will now be professionally developed for a work in progress sharing on Saturday 2nd December in Leeds.

Following his time at The HopBarn in September, The HopBarn approached Xavier to write a blog of his time in development and how he sees the vision for the work taking shape.

This is *Me and My Whale* according to Xavier himself.



Over a weekend in September, we played, experimented and developed material for a new performance project: *Me & My Whale*.

Our team is made up of Xavier Velastin, a sound artist and performer based in Leeds, and Hannah Mook, a writer and performance maker based in Manchester. *Me & My Whale* is a mixture between gig, play, performance art and poem, using many different media and approaches to examine our role in the destruction of the marine acoustic ecology. In a wider sense, it's about power, agency, and (dis)empowerment, and it does this through expanding the performative voice.



The story follows a misanthropic military submarine captain who, in the midst of a future global war, has orders to detonate a deadly acoustic weapon over the enemy capital; but her heart is torn when she hears a whale's call and falls head over fins in love.

She has to choose between her duty and her amygdala. For this, we're using our backgrounds in improvisatory and devised performance, along with our technical and academic training in form, composition and programming.

The weekend kickstarted an R&D process which is going on for the rest of the year, and which will hopefully evolve into a run, tour and some completely unexpected tangents.

The HopBarn was a really perfect space to start experimenting with some of the more esoteric sound-based elements of the piece.



Me and My Whale - Underwater singing

We were mentored by sound artist Angie Atmadjaja, who brought tasty speakers and her unique expertise in psychoacoustic phenomena, which we greedily integrated into the development of the work. In particular, we were looking at the phenomenon of wave cancellation – how extremely low tones (which are particularly relevant to the piece as whale's songs are at and beyond the bottom range of human hearing) are heard differently in a space depending on the position of the listener, literally because the waves themselves cancel each other out as they travel through the air. We matched these to some hacked gaming controllers so we could trigger these low tones through movement, and created a short improvised dance where our movements, our ears and each other's presence were in dialogue.

Other experiments included singing with underwater microphones, lighting our bodies through water and plastic, using live spectral domain processing to make a bowl of water sound like a submarine and starting to build a vocabulary for aquatic communication using voice, movement and technology.



Me and My Whale - Plastic Drowning

Having the space and time, though relatively brief, to develop our work at the HopBarn was a really nice way to get the project started. By giving us the possibility of working at any hour, we could explore lights in the pitch black; by not having to be worried about volume, we could do loud and horrible noises to our heart's content; by having our accommodation right next to where we were working, we didn't have to worry about being kicked out or disturbing neighbours.

The help that the HopBarn team gave us through feedback, by coming to see a presentation of our work, also enabled us to address questions which we wouldn't have thought of, and get an outside perspective on what can be a very weird piece.

We're very happy to have spent the time and to have met the people involved in making the space.

Xavier & Mook

## Live Art Bistro

Me and My Whale - Work in Progress

Saturday 2nd December 2017

Performance 6.30pm  
Q&A Following

Tickets £4 on the door (cash only)

Live Art Bistro  
1-2 Regent Street  
Leeds  
LS2 7QA

[www.liveartleeds.com](http://www.liveartleeds.com)

*" it hasn't got long left up there  
– at the surface –the waters the waters  
are ganging up on you freezing and  
strangling and choking and  
drowning and freezing and  
strangling and choking"*

## Plug In Tune Up

The HopBarn Centre for Music and Creative performance is offering a fantastic performance opportunity for young musicians.

Over 2 nights, The HopBarn will host a special event for young musicians to come and perform their favourite pieces to an open audience.

Whether as a solo artist or as a group, this call out opportunity aims to bring young musicians together to share their musical expertise in a relaxed performance setting.

With one night being dedicated to classical music and the other for more mainstream genres such as jazz, roots, rhythm & blues and alternative; The HopBarn is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from young musicians aged 12 to 21 and who are not in professional music training to come and perform.

### Dates:

Plug In Tune Up will take place on:

**Sunday 11th February 2017 / 7pm**

*– for classical, whether instrumental and/or for voice*

**Sunday 18th February 2017 / 7pm**

*– for Jazz, Roots, R&B and Alternative*

*Please note that whilst the performance times state 7pm, applicants may need to be available during the day for scheduled rehearsals and sound checks*

### Application Criteria

- Applicants must not be undertaking professional music training (Degree level and above) or are currently studying full-time at a recognised music conservatoire
- Applicants must feel that their pieces are rehearsed to a sufficient performance standard
- That the music set offered does not exceed 20 minutes
- Applicants under the tutorage of private music teachers have their consent
- Applicants under the age of 18 have parental consent
- Aside from a Piano, applicants must have access to their own musical instruments
- A basic technical set is provided by The HopBarn for electric instruments, but more specific equipment must be provided by the musician.

**Plug In Tune Up**  
Performance opportunities for young people aged 12 - 21 years  
Plug In: 11.02.2018  
Tune Up: 18.02.2018

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To find out more and how to apply log on to:  
[thehopbarn.org.uk/news](http://thehopbarn.org.uk/news)  
**The HopBarn**

### How to Apply

The HopBarn welcomes EOI from young musicians who would like the opportunity to perform as part of a collective evening event alongside other young musicians.

Expression of Interest Forms (EOI) can be downloaded from **News and Opportunities** section of The HopBarn's website.

It is an opportunity to share musical expertise, gain further performance experience and celebrate the richness in musical diversity.

The HopBarn is keen to receive applications from musicians who write, compose and perform their own work

### Application Deadline:

EOI forms must be received no later than

**Friday 28th November 2017**

To find out more and complete an Expression of Interest Form (EOI) log onto:

[www.thehopbarn.org.uk/news](http://www.thehopbarn.org.uk/news)

## Coming up in November

**Red Dirt Skinners**  
Sat 4th November 2017  
7.30pm



Widely regarded as one of the most innovative acts to come out of the UK in recent years, the sublime genre-defying sound of the Red Dirt Skinners is created by husband and wife team, Rob and Sarah Skinner.

In 2013 the Red Dirt Skinners became the first band in history to succeed at both the British Blues and the British Country Music awards. Don't let these accolades pigeonhole the Skinners though; their audiences always describe them as 'refreshingly different'.

Drawing on influences from folk, country, blues, americana, jazz and everything between, the Red Dirt Skinners' sound is instantly recognisable.

Comfortably blending exceptional, almost telepathic, harmonies with the unique instrumentation of soprano saxophone and acoustic guitar, audiences fall in love with the Skinners sound.

Hailing from the South East of England, Rob and Sarah have both been musicians for the majority of their lives. Sarah; classically trained on the clarinet from about the age of 6, progressed through the grades before switching to the saxophone. After winning Instrumentalist of the Year at the British Blues Awards in 2014, Sarah became the first female artist to be endorsed by Trevor James Saxophones.

Tickets £15.56 (including booking fee)  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Future Events

**Ray Cooper - A True Blue Music Event**  
Saturday 10 Feb 2018  
7.30pm / £14



This is a rare opportunity to see award-winning folk /rock musician and Oyster Band former member. Ray Cooper appears at the beautiful Hopbarn Southwell for an intimate evening with you all.

His first solo album 'Tales of Love War and Death by Hanging' (2010) has a strongly historical theme. The sound is simple but at times evokes a much bigger scale. Citing influences such as T-Bone Burnett, Ennio Morricone, Johnny Cash and June Tabor, Ray plays cello, guitar, harmonium, mandolin, mandola, harmonica and the Finnish kantele to accompany his songs.

His second album, 'Palace Of Tears' was released in September 22nd 2014 and is more of a singer/songwriter album but, due to his adopted home now being Sweden, retaining a distinct Nordic flavour with the inclusion of the Swedish kantele and fiddles.

'Palace of Tears' – a mighty sounding record!  
fRoots, 2014.

Tickets:

[eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)

[thehopbarn.org.uk](http://thehopbarn.org.uk)



## Mimika Theatre - Landscapes

An enchanting journey to the desert, rainforest, under the sea and the arctic

Sun 4 March 2018

£8 Adults / £6 Children by Contacting 07880973365  
or e-mail [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk)



The Sun rises over a buzzing desert, a chick hatches

The Eagle leaves the nest in search of food

Below, the Meerkats are alert

The journey begins

Landscapes is an award winning 50 minute theatre experience. Originally created for children aged 6 to 9 Mimika Theatre soon discovered that there were in fact no real upper or lower age limits.

The non verbal base and the narrative accessibility also means that the work is appropriate for children where English is not their first language and for children with moderate and severe learning difficulties.

It is Theatre for all!

*"Spells are woven silently...Mimika Theatre brought, in Landscapes, an alluring invitation to the desert, the rain forest the South Pole and even under the sea. This is true transformation, the imagination set free..."*

*The Scotsman*

[www.thehopbarn.org.uk](http://www.thehopbarn.org.uk) / [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk) / 07880973365

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