

SOUNDPATHS FIELD RECORDING GUIDE



BRIGHTER
SOUND



ABOUT SOUNDPATHS

Soundpaths is a brand new app allowing people to experience any location in a totally different way - through music and sound. Amsterdam based composer **Yoni Collier** is collaborating with developers **Echoes.xyz** on this brand new geolocation and audio app and we need your help to create, test and launch it!

Designed for running or walking, the launch of the Soundpaths app will take the user on a journey through Moston and Harpurhey, accompanied by an original piece of music composed and produced by Yoni which will reflect and celebrate the area, and its communities.

Over the last few months, Yoni has been working alongside Manchester arts organisations Brighter Sound and SICK! Festival to develop the app as part of MINDSCAPES - a project that explores the impact our environment has on our mental wellbeing. The app will be launched as part of a showcase of new work created for MINDSCAPES in Spring 2021

ABOUT MINDSCAPES:

OUR ENVIRONMENT. OUR MENTAL HEALTH. OUR COLLABORATION. MANCHESTER & THE NETHERLANDS.

Soundpaths is part of MINDSCAPES, a collaboration between cultural institutions in Manchester and The Netherlands which challenges artists to explore the ways in which our surroundings can be a cause of social alienation, anxiety and depression, but also, how we can find solace and support in the world around us.

MINDSCAPES



YONATAN COLLIER

Yoni Collier is a sound artist, performer, composer and producer. He has been signed to numerous independent and major labels. A former member of Heads We Dance, Deuce & Charger and Lone Wolf, he has performed at venues and festivals across the UK and Europe. His music has featured on many TV shows and films. He is currently working towards a practice-based PhD, examining how location based recording, musical performance and production can be used as tools for examining artistic practice, landscape and history.

THE ROUTE



SOME LANDMARKS

- FC United
- Wild Pond, Broadhurst Park
- North West Youth Theatre
- Collyhurst & Moston Lads Club
- Adelphi Cinema, Kenyon Lane
- Ifeoma African Restaurant
- Peace Garden
- Hough Hall
- Boggart Woods
- Boggart Hole Brook
- St Dunstan's RC Church
- Blue Bell Pub
- WW2 AA Gun Emplacement

Soundpaths
total route length
= 5.6K

WE NEED YOUR SOUNDS!

We need you to help us build a complete audio picture of the Soundpaths route. We are asking local residents to help us by going outside and making field recordings of their local environment along the route. Your recordings will be interwoven with the musical composition created by our composer Yoni and listened to by all future Soundpaths app users! Have a look at the landmarks on our route map.

Soundpaths Google Maps Route Link: <https://bit.ly/3qE8oXD>

SOME LANDMARKS



ALONG



THE ROUTE

GUIDE TO FIELD RECORDING

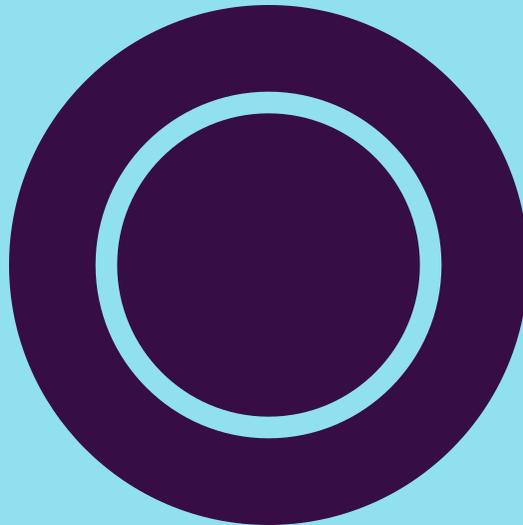
WHAT DO I RECORD?

Anything that is interesting to you! Field recording is a very personal activity, everyone will find different things that spark their curiosity along the Soundpaths route, pick an area that interests you, it's all about listening closely and going with your instinct. LISTEN to your environment. What interests you? Maybe it is

- **EVENTS** - an interesting place, event or activity that is happening
- **WIDE FOCUS** - the general sound environment for example a busy street with lots of activity, people and lively noises, or a quiet more natural atmosphere with the sound of birds, trees and wind
- **CLOSE FOCUS** - a specific sound that surprises you along the route such as trains, streams, birdsong, roadworks or church bells

"Studio recordings are normally quite meticulously planned. The thing I like about field recording is that you can't plan them too carefully - when you're heading out to record you never know exactly what you're going to come home with. As a composer I love that the results can be surprising and exciting - you never know where they are going to take you."

Yonatan Collier



TOP TIPS!

- **CALM | MEDITATIVE** - take your time, walk the route and be present in the moment. Even if you are in a familiar setting, there is beauty to be found in the seemingly mundane, close your eyes and listen, what can you hear? How does it feel to listen closely?
- **KEEP RECORDING!** Record in one spot for a few minutes... the sound environment can change from one minute to the next so remember to keep recording as you never know what will happen next.



HOW TO RECORD

Everyone has a field recording device nowadays - their mobile phone, find your recorder in your settings. A few things to consider when recording:

- ◎ **BEFORE YOU SET OUT:** Check the weather and make sure you are warm and wrapped up
- ◎ **WIND IS NOT YOUR FRIEND!** Use a wind-shield or make sure it isn't too windy - otherwise all you will record is the sound of the wind, don't stand head on!
- ◎ **LENGTH:** Sometimes it's worth recording segments that are a few minutes long (probably no longer than three minutes or so because of file sizes)
- ◎ **PATIENCE:** When recording remember that the sound field could change at any time, something sonically interesting could be just about to happen, so wait a while for something unexpected!
- ◎ **NO NOISY HANDS!** Before you hit record, make sure you're standing in a comfortable position with a firm grip of your phone. Try not to move your hands, as this 'handling noise' will be recorded.
- ◎ **DIRECTION:** Locate the microphone on your phone, make sure this is pointing toward the object/scene you're recording for best audio quality.
- ◎ **STAY STILL:** Stand very still to capture sound, you can move your phone directionally towards an event



LABEL YOUR SOUNDS

Please label and tell us about your recordings. For each one we need to know

- ◎ **LOCATION:** Where the sound was recorded
- ◎ **CONTENT:** Some info about the sound you have
- ◎ **LABEL:** Combine this info when labelling your file like this: **FCUnited-Crowd-Noise.wav**

LISTENING BACK

It's good to listen back to your recordings when you get home on headphones. The listening back experience always raises surprises, there will be some things you didn't expect to hear, or may sound different on playback to when you were in situ.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SOUNDS

There are two ways you can submit your recordings

🕒 USE THE SOUNDPATHS JOTFORM

Head to <https://bit.ly/386c2B6> (picture to the right) or scan the QR code below to access the site (you will need wifi for this method). On here it's easy to record, label and submit your sounds.

***please note you will need to allow the platform to access your microphone and photos*



- Press record button (hit stop when you have finished to save)
- Listen back if you like by pressing 'play'
- Take a photo of your location
- Describe what you recorded and your location
- Enter your name and email
- Hit SUBMIT

🕒 EMAIL YOUR RECORDINGS

If you don't have access to wifi whilst outside, you can send your recordings via email. Please

- Record your sounds on your phone
- Label them when you get home
- Email to tim@brightersound.com put 'Soundpaths recording + your name' as the subject of the email

NEXT STEPS ...

Thank you for being part of Soundpaths, we can't wait to listen to your recordings, a vital part for the new app. Once we have our test version we'll be in touch asking you to test it out and give feedback. The festival is due to take place in late April - subject to final confirmation and COVID restrictions. We'll be holding an official launch event inviting everyone to walk or run the route using the app and listen to the specially composed piece of music.

Please contact tim@brightersound.com at Brighter Sound with any questions



Submit your contribution to a new geolocation and audio app
created as part of MINDSCAPES

Please record, photograph and describe what and where you recorded on the route, then press submit. Make sure your browser and operating system are up to date and that your device can connect to the internet before you submit.

Link to the route on [Googlemaps](#) for reference.

If you have any questions or would like to send your recordings and description by email please send them to tim@brightersound.com

Record your sounds here

0:00 / 3:00

Photograph where you made the recording here

Describe what you recorded and where you made it. *

Your name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Many thanks! Just click the submit button below to send us your recordings. You can make as many recordings as you like by clicking on the same link or QR code and going through the same process.

THANK YOU

TO OUR FUNDERS

A MINDSCAPES Commission for SICK! Festival, funded by DutchCulture in partnership with the Dutch Embassy in the UK



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Kingdom of the Netherlands

DutchCu | ture

