

PUBLIC RESPONSES AND COMMENTS FOR ECHOLOCATION

"...Robert Jarvis' piece, Echo 1, which translated the radar calls of bats down into a register audible to the human ear was highly 'imaginative' both in concept and in execution. The resultant soundscapes had a really ethereal quality. There is also something magical and otherworldly about the ordinarily silent calls of the bats being unusually revealed to us in this way. ...The placement of bright lights along the Cherwell to attract the bats to the site and the observation of their presence in the gardens all required - again - a large deal of carefully noticing and observing reality."

"I couldn't believe that I was listening to real bats - what a variety of noises, and to see them in real time was an absolute knockout. The whole thing was fantastic but the bats were real stars."

"Simply magical. Bats skimming the water catching insects and hearing this in a fabulous musical melody – more please!"

"I was enchanted by the bat chatter... what a genius idea, and so beautiful."

"This is the kind of music that makes people think and transforms their experience of bats, of humans, of sound, of communication. This kind of transformative experience is the whole reason for art."

[Echolocation] without question was innovative and unlike anything I have seen or heard of before. The content alone felt groundbreaking but the additional fact that this took place towards the end of the evening deeply embedded within a large nature reserve where the audience found its way via their own torches was truly ambitious.

The piece itself seemed without fault, and was aesthetically beautiful. The riverbank had been set up with a discreet yet effective speaker system and the lighting used in the piece illuminated parts of the riverbank beautifully. All seemed to run to proficiently and the audience witnessed a rare and exciting piece of art that relayed and interpreted the communication between the bat communities in the area.

I myself and I feel most of the audience present were in awe of the project, the sounds were beautiful and there was a real sense of marvel in that we were hearing a communication between the bats. This work set out to be highly ambitious and pulls it off.

The work undoubtedly inspires an individual reflection, well certainly for me it did in relation to the place we live, how we live and the music and wonder that nature surrounds us with that we often fail to see and hear. I myself have found myself talking to many people about it and thinking of the piece frequently. I think it will reconnect people with the environment or help individuals see our surroundings and art more readily or in a different way.

This was a memorable, inspiring and touching piece of work that connects profoundly on a very individual level and encourages much thought and reflection."