

Bespoke Acoustic Music Instrument Design Project 2010-2011

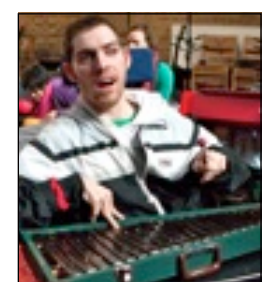
Daniel O'Sullivan

Daniel is an inquisitive and sociable man with an exuberant and playful nature, who has been a regular and enthusiastic creative participant at JOS inclusive music making sessions since 2008. He is a vibrant and energetic member of the SCOPE ensemble who enjoys being involved with all aspects of the JOS workshops. Daniel always brings noted contribution to the music making with an applied gusto both in his instrumental and vocal expression, that is an acknowledged enhancement of the groups co-created musical experience.



Musical Factors

Daniel is an eager and open minded musical explorer who has played many of JOS' large and varied collection of strung and tuned percussion instruments including drums, violins, guitars, zithers, shakers, scrapers, xylophones, marimbas, mandolins, harmonicas and harps using strumming, beating stroking, bowing and plectra techniques. He also has a strong singing voice that he likes to use towards the JOS vocal improvisations and harmony circle chorus that generally brings each session to a fusive and moving finale.



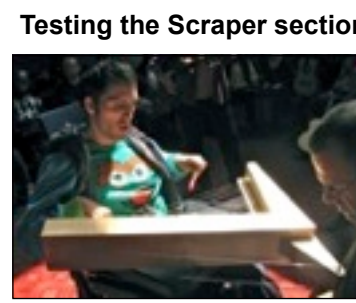
Exploring the Xylophone



Playing Zither with Nigel



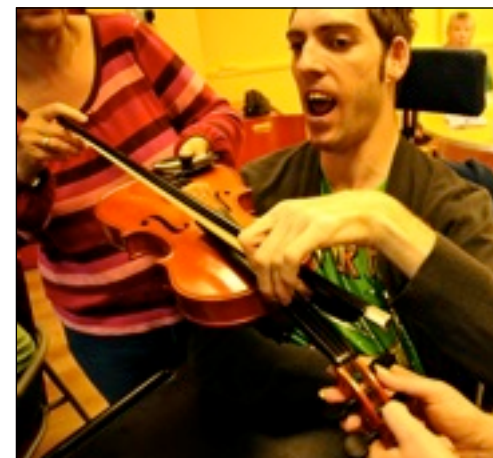
Testing the Harp section



Exploring presentation



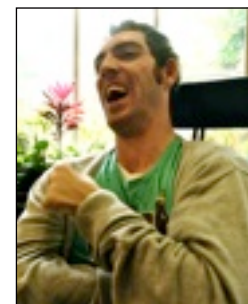
Daniel plays the Xylophone



Exploring bowing the Violin



Jason & Daniel



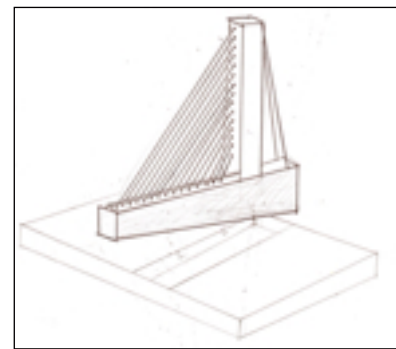
Flower Power!

Daniel's bright and consistent pro-active creative involvement at JOS has been focused and applied throughout the duration of the project and has been instrumental in motivating and directing his co-designed instrument. We hope that Daniel himself will suggest an appropriate name for his unique multi-faceted and multi-timbral instrument.

Exploratory Co-design Workshops

Daniel's preferred use of a variety of instruments gives expression to his colourful and playful nature and has been central to the determining of his co-designed wheelchair presentable composite harp, zither, berimbau, scraper and beat-box instrument. The instrument is designed to be played in a variety of positions set upon a customized soundbox that can be easily fitted to, and dismantled from Daniel's motorized wheelchair.

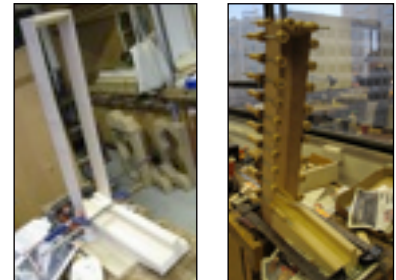
The Co-Design Journey



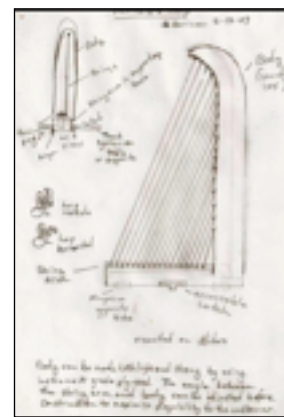
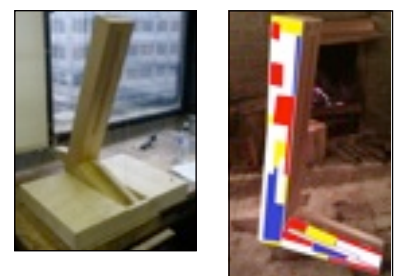
Natalie Williams, Jan-Ellen Harriman, Lewis Jones and MERU Design Club initial design sketches



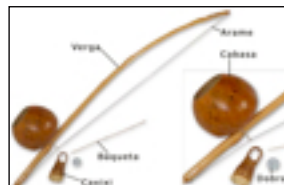
Lewis Jones & Natalie Williams - London Metropolitan University



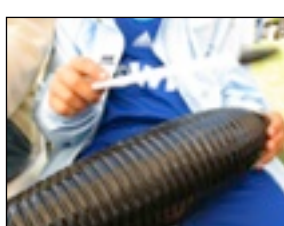
Brazilian Berimbau



Godefroy & Jan-Ellen



Brazilian Berimbau



Personalization

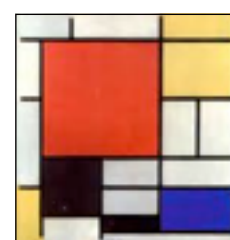
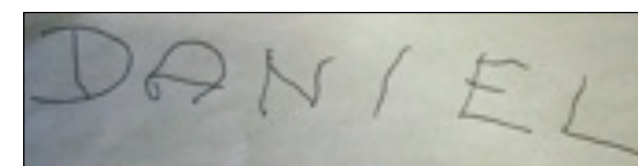
JOS intends that each instrument might become a cherished personal possession that will continue to inspire, encourage and facilitate its owner's musical involvement and give pleasure for a long time to come.

To enhance the sense personal identification and ownership all designs incorporate bespoke features wherever possible. The process of co-design is a mutually shared co-learning experience that was dependent upon Daniel's essential contribution as a member of a multi-talented and diverse co-design team that worked together towards the facilitation and expression of Daniel's individual abilities and personal aesthetic.

Daniel's character and stated preferences informed the development and personalization of his composite instrument, including its combined instruments form, shape, size, function, finish, colour and presentation sound box mounting. All of these features have been carefully and methodically considered towards their best and most advantageous fit to Daniel's personality, ability and music making skills.

Daniel particularly likes brightly colored clothes (yellow being a favourite), football shirts (Man U and Chelsea) and brightly colored patterned socks.

His favorite TV programs are Hollyoaks and East Enders. He likes Reggae music and old tunes from the 1950 & 60's – one of his favourite songs is "Lolly Pop"



Development

Daniel's instrument is another fine and exciting example of JOS ground breaking and versatile bespoke instrument co-design approaches that has precedent in multi-cultural, historic, composite and modern experimental instruments design.

Daniel can play and explore his instrument alone or as a co-player. JOS' approach to instruments making offers endless potentials and exciting initiatives that might inspire and encourage future instruments designers, makers and players to explore co-design approaches that can be of great value and advantage to all alike, and that would not have been conceived without the inspirational impetus provided by Daniel as central to the co-design teams creative momentum ingenuity and originality.



Daniel co-leading the Harmony Circle



Composite Harp-Zither-Berimbau-Scraper and Wheelchair presentable Percussive Soundbox.

Co-Design initiation Daniel O'Sullivan  
 Devised, Managed and Co-Designed by William Longden  
 Administrator - Chris Leeds  
 Funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Joy Of Sound  
 Liaison at RBKC - John Hendry, Steve O'Sullivan and Jason Suckling  
 Co-Design concept development: Natalie Williams, supervised by Lewis Jones and assisted by Jan-Ellen Harriman at London Metropolitan University.  
 Working prototype: Natalie Williams.  
 Design development, adjustment and finishings Ian Burrow.  
 Co-Design Consultants: Chris Leeds, Lewis Jones, Godefroy Maruejols  
 Acknowledgements: Simon Powell, JOS Volunteer Team, St. Peters Heritage Centre Vicky Cable - MERU Design Club.

With thanks to all of the students, families, staff and extended team at SCOPE, RBKC for there dedicated support and creative input.

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Alan Marsh project photography and printing/ Marcella Haddad project photography Elsie Carrico project photography. With thanks to all other contributors.

Daniel's Composite Instrument

