

Bespoke Acoustic Music Instrument Design Project 2010-2011

Karim Karim

Karim is a sociable and energetic man with a vital sense of humor who very much enjoys playing as a member of the Joy of Sound (JOS) inclusive music group that he has regularly attended since 2008.

During JOS sessions Karim expresses eager creative abilities and dynamically engages in playing, singing, dancing and interactive co-creation with other members of the group.



Karim playing his finished Karimbek

Musical Factors

Karim has explored and experimented in playing a range of strung and light percussion instruments at regular weekly JOS sessions.

Although he can play a variety of instruments Karim's usual preference is for stringed instruments such as the guitar and violin, especially when moving around and dancing whilst playing.

Karim greatly enjoys singular and one-to-one musical interaction and is also an active and energetic participant in group-play improvisations.

During the time Karim has been attending JOS sessions he has been a consistent and enthusiastic and versatile instrumental player.

Exploratory Co-design Workshops

Karim's personal preferences have been fundamental in informing the design process and construction of his personalized and bespoke instrument.



Exploring bowing a violin



Playing zithers



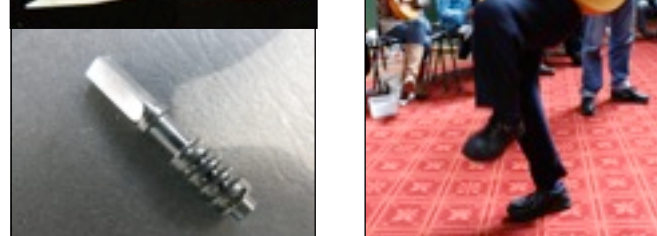
Playing the West African Kora with Minna



Playing Ukulele and Guitar with Francis and Minna

The Design Journey

Each JOS bespoke instrument design is a collaboration between many people. In addition to the design recipient (without whom there would be no impetus for the design) JOS involves familial and professional carers, friends, JOS volunteers, consultants, designers, makers and anyone else with an interest who wishes to contribute ideas and resources towards achieving the best possible product and outcomes for our co-designer and learner. We believe this way of working is essential in developing much needed and more fully inclusive design approaches and mutual acknowledgement



Personalization

It is hoped that each instrument will be a cherished personal possession that will continue to encourage and facilitate musical involvement and pleasure over a long time period. To enhance the sense of personal identification and ownership designs are bespoke as much as is optimally possible. This involves exploring and discovering with design recipients and their inclusive design teams as much as is possible about individual preferences tastes and choice. In Karim's case this includes his favorite object, his 'Tasbi' meditation beads. Karim enthusiastically attends the Mosque at South Kensington and also the Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Karim also very much enjoys 'Bollywood' musicals and James Bond films particularly the titles and the screen stance of Sean Connery.

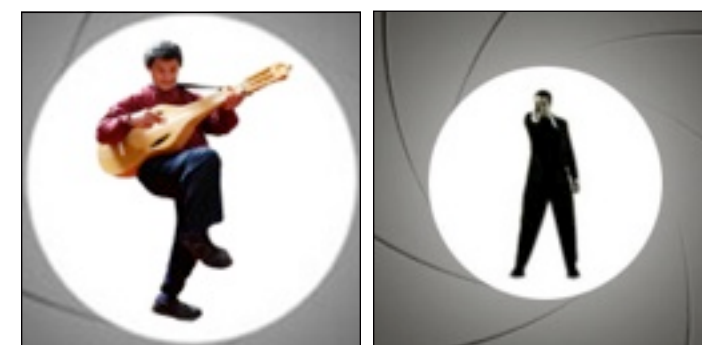
These individual and cultural considerations amongst others, informed the personalization of Karim's instrument including its form, shape, function, finish color and unique design elements on the body and headstock.



Tasbi beads



'Allah' calligraphy design for body



Karim as 'Bond' headstock inlay

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

Development

Throughout the course of the design project it has become apparent that Karim is ready and willing to progress in sharing and transferring his demonstrated musical discipline and skills towards becoming a JOS sessional helper.

JOS helpers assist with the general setting up and preparation for sessions Karim follows in the footsteps of his fellow player and friend Francis, who is already a regular JOS player and helper.



Karim in action co-creating with Ricky, Evelyn and Morgan at Joy of Sound St Peters workshops



Co-assisting with 'musical mattress' design



Testing second prototype with Ian

The 'Karimbek'

A Composite design influenced by Spanish Guitar, Rebek, Guitar d'Amour, and Violin.



'Karimbek' Co-Design process initiated by Karim Karim at SCOPE Centre RBKC

Project Devised - Managed - Co-Design William Longden

Project Administrator - Chris Leeds Project Funded by RBKC and JOS Project liaison at RBKC John Hendry - Steve O'Sullivan, Jason Suckling and Minna Eyles

Initial Co-Design prototyping and making Godefroy Maruejols

Additional Co-Design adjustments, prototyping, and finishing Ian Burrow Co-Design Consultants Lewis Jones, Chris Leeds & Michael Cameron

Co-Design contributors - MERU Design Club

Acknowledgements - Simon Powell, Mike Cooper, The JOS Volunteer Team, St Peters Heritage Centre Vauxhall.

With thanks to all of the students, families, staff and extended team at SCOPE, RBKC for their dedicated support and creative input, and to Francis for his enthusiastic assistance.

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