

You're a Fisherman's Bassoon (2017)

Pete Stollery

7 bassoons, 1 contrabassoon / 7'

Whilst shopping in Tesco, Inverurie, a friend of ours, John Aldersey-Williams, approached my wife and exclaimed, "You're a fisherman's bassoon!". At least, that's what she thought he said. In fact, he'd said, "Eurovision must be soon!". I thought, there and then, that this would be a great title for a piece about half-hearing and misunderstanding.

During the summer of 2017, I became uncomfortably fond of winning songs from the Eurovision Song Contest from 1956 to the present day, having spent a great deal of time listening to them in depth. They became my earworms throughout most of that summer and it was usually the ones I hated - Brotherhood of Man's *Save Your Kisses for Me* (1976), Johnny Logan's *What's Another Year* (1980), Dana's *All Kinds of Everything* (1970) - that would wake me up in the middle of the night, but I began to wallow in the mock-Baroque chord sequence of the refrain from Lulu's *Boom Bang-a-Bang* (1969) and the intense harmonic passages in Conchita Wurst's *Rise Like a Phoenix* (2014), both of which feature strongly in the piece. In fact, no less than 34 quotations from past winners appear; some of them might be instantly recognisable, but many will be half-heard, at most.

The piece is not meant to be taken terribly seriously.