Granite Sound (2015)

Pete Stollery

soundwalk event through Aberdeen, Scotland – with Suk-Jun Kim, Phillip Cooke, Stuart Docherty, Mark Dunsmore, Bea Dawkins and John Montgomery

Granite Sound is a pair of one-hour guided sound walks with accompanying radiophonic soundtrack listened to over headphones. A number of locations, or dwelling points, are joined together via the walk and reflect an aspect of granite and the history of Aberdeen through sound, and around themes of excavating and exporting. The first walk begins at Seventeen on Belmont Street (AB10 1JR) and travels via Union Terrace, Guild Street, Union Square, Market Street, Victoria Bridge and Walker Road to the finish point at Walker Road Primary School. The second walk begins at Castlegate (AB11 5BB) and travel via Castle Street, Castle Terrace, Virginia Street, Union Square, Guild Street and College Street to the finish over the Wellington Suspension Bridge.

Composed by sound artists Pete Stollery and Suk-Jun Kim, and featuring vocal music composer by Philip Cooke as well as poems and text from local writers, the soundtrack is triggered via GPS depending on the location of the walkers. Each walk has a number of dwelling points where walkers pause and contemplate their location both visually and aurally and a central focus for both walks is Union Square Shopping Centre where walkers and the general public are able to interact with and trigger sounds via an environment created by Bea Dawking, Mark Dunsmore, John Montgomery and Stuart Docherty, all students from the MMus Sonic Arts programme at the University of Aberdeen.

Granite Sound was commissioned by the National Theatre of Scotland and performed on 7th/8th November 2015.