

Pages (2012)

Pete Stollery

multi-channel sound installation for opening of the Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen

In April 2009, I made a number of recordings in the former Queen Mother Library, University of Aberdeen having asked the staff who work there if there were any sounds they would like me to record as a way of preserving the soundscape from that building. One of these recordings, an idea from Gillian Dawson, was the sound of flicking through pages in a book. Using the magnificent atrium in the Sir Duncan Rice Library I wanted to create the auditory illusion of pages wafting through the space between the floors like a flock of birds. This idea forms the first part of the installation.

The second part occurs on the revealing of the commemorative plaque. A number of publications in Special Collection were found (by Peter Davidson) to contain musical "graffiti" where music had been written in margins or pasted in the back. These tiny fragments of music fly around the first floor, as if released by the revealing of the plaque and eventually settle on the note G which leads into a third part, composed by Paul Mealor.