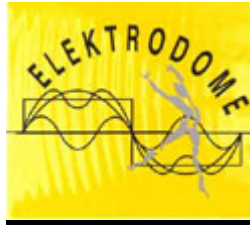


PRESS RELEASE



SOUNDBEAM IN WALSALL!

Elizabeth Purnell – with SOUNDBEAM
at
Caldmore Community Primary School, Walsall
Tuesday October 4th to Friday December 10th, 2004



Composer **Elizabeth Purnell** has been commissioned by Bristol arts charity **Elektrodome** to compose and devise a piece to be developed in collaboration with the children of **Class 6** and their teacher, **Trudy Walker**, at **Caldmore Community Primary School, Carless Street, Caldmore, Walsall**. The Project – which will involve the children in exploring the Soundbeam electronic music and multi-media live performance technology - has the enthusiastic support of the head teacher, **Mrs Nola Boulger**, and of **Mike Parrott** (Group Controller of Arts and Development, Walsall Education Authority).

Elizabeth Purnell

Liz is a professional composer and trombone player with experience of most aspects of present day music making. She has worked on music for tv, theatre (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory's "Macbeth", currently at the Barbican, London), radio (collaborations with Andy Sheppard on Radio 3, incidental music for "A Triton Amongst the Minnows", and "The Element of Water" for Radio 4) and the concert hall ("Not Waving But Drowning" for ensemble, "Music for Metal Instruments" for brass ensemble). She is also a leading composer for SPNM's 'Sound Inventors' for schools. Liz lives in Bristol with her partner and their 2 year old son.

Soundbeam



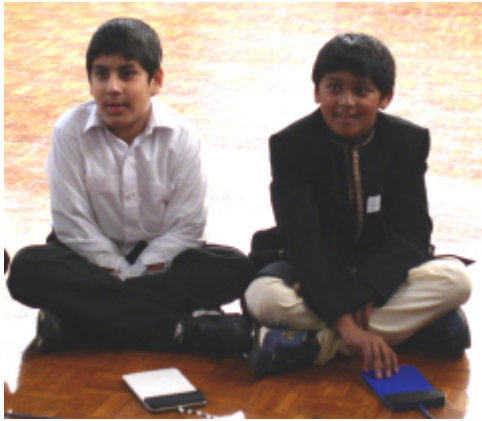
Caldmore School's Class 6 will be using **SOUNDBEAM** - with sensor and switch inputs for 12 simultaneous performers - whose invisible, ultrasonic 'Beams' enable physical move-ments to be detected at distances of up to 6 metres (20 feet). The students and their teacher will be collaborating with the composer in making sound samples, video clips and other graphics for them to articulate and modify in live performance. **Mark Newbold** of The Soundbeam Project Ltd will be giving technical support.

The Project

Liz will be visiting Caldmore School - which has a large proportion of students from Bangladeshi and South Indian Muslim communities - for a total of 13 half-day sessions with Trudy Walker and Class 6 between **Tuesday, October 5th, 2004** and **Friday, Dec 10th**, when the new piece will be performed to an invited audience.

As well as creating the sound samples, video clips and other graphics for articulation by their own movements in the 'Beams' of the ultrasonic sensors, and by the operation of switches and joysticks, the children will singing and speaking, as well as dancing, and contributing any acoustic or electronic instrumental or other performance skills available within the class. In addition to playing, dancing and singing, the children will be involved in creating words and images as part of the basic materials for the piece. Class teacher **Trudy Walker** is particularly interested in Dance, and has already produced a dance piece based on an Australian Aboriginal painting with the children.

Elektrodome Pilot Projects



This is the fourth of a series of **Elektrodome Pilot Projects** specially designed to enable Primary and Secondary school students to explore electronic music and multimedia technology in live performance.. Previous Pilot Projects have been hosted by Leighswood Primary School (Walsall), Bishop Perowne High School (Worcester) and Alsop High School, (Liverpool)

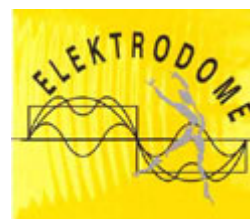
Evaluation

Following the children' responses to a questionnaire about the Project, and a meeting of composer, school staff, and representatives of Walsall LEA and Elektrodome, the musical and gand teachers taking part will be assessed by **Professor Helen Coll** and **Mr Ted Bunting** of the Faculty of Education, University of Central England, Perry Barr, Birmingham.



Funding

The Pilot Project at Caldmore Community Primary School with Liz Purnell is being managed by Elektrodome – with funds from



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