

## Michael Begg

Sound artist / Composer

Musical Director, Black Glass Ensemble, Associate artist, The Queen's Hall.

“Michael Begg is one of Scotland’s most innovative and emotionally affecting musicians. His work bridges science and art, classical and contemporary, breaking new ground while thrilling audiences.”

*Alan Morrison, Head of Music, Creative Scotland*



CRYPTIC presents

sonica

WORLD PREMIERE

# Titan: A Crane is a Bridge

Michael Begg

SAT 28 OCTOBER // 12.00 - 18.00 // £5  
SUN 29 OCTOBER // 12.00 - 18.00 // £5 (£10 INCLUDING SONICA TRANSPORT - SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS)  
THE TITAN CRANE sets a rich and faultless place in perpetual motion.

Box office: 0141 354 0544 // [musicglue.com/cryptic](http://musicglue.com/cryptic)  
[sonic-a.co.uk](http://sonic-a.co.uk)

A Cryptic Commission for Sonica 2017, supported by West Dunbartonshire Council.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

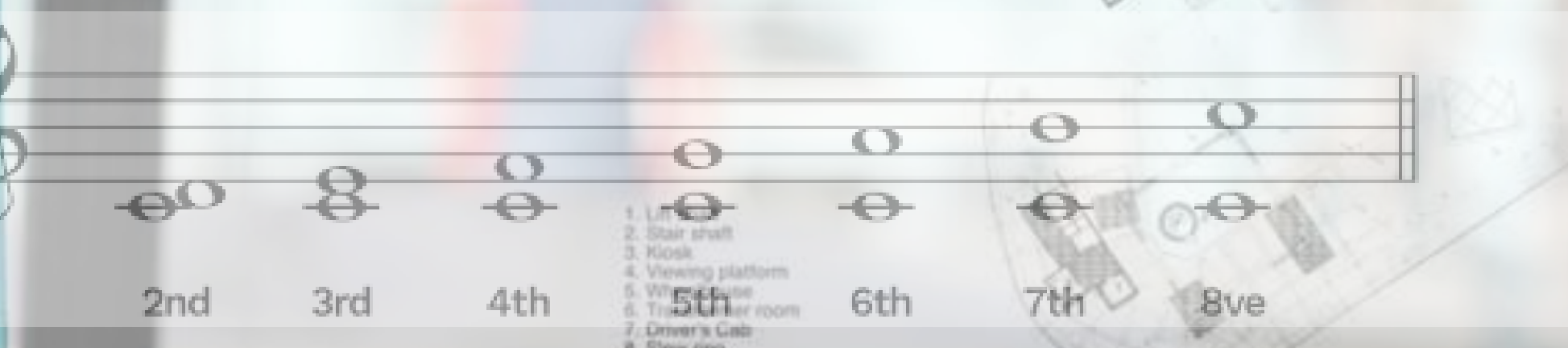
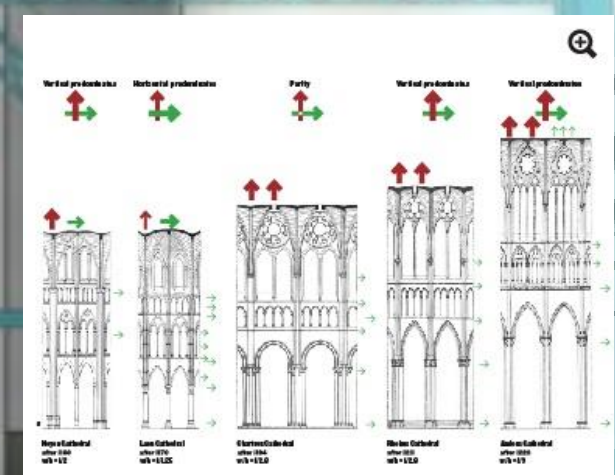
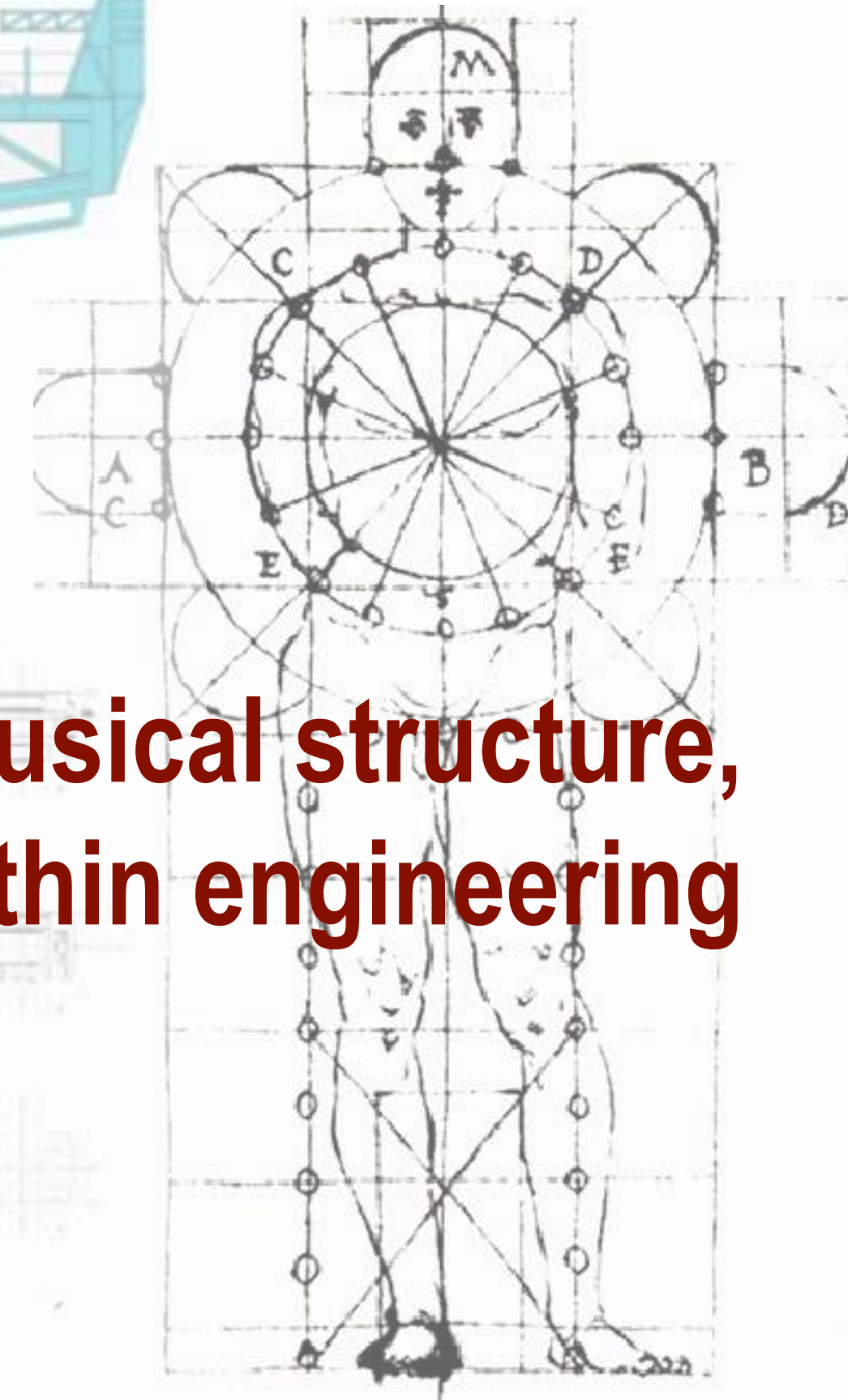


Cryptic is a PRS for Music Foundation Talent Development Partner

Begg's installation is perhaps the most ambitious of his career. The wheelhouse becomes an enfolded and eroding of the structure, turning the iconic structure into a new form - The Wire

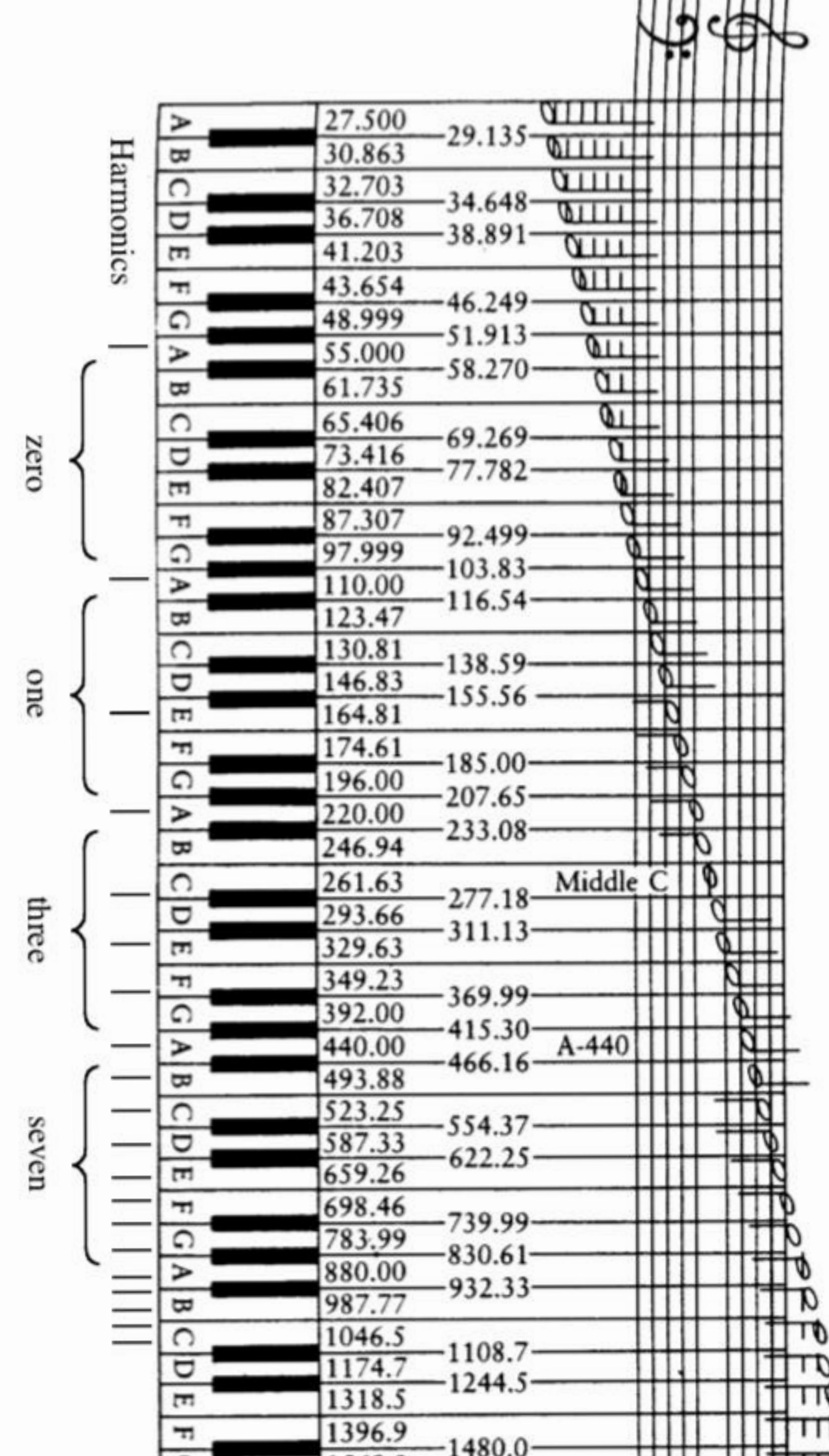
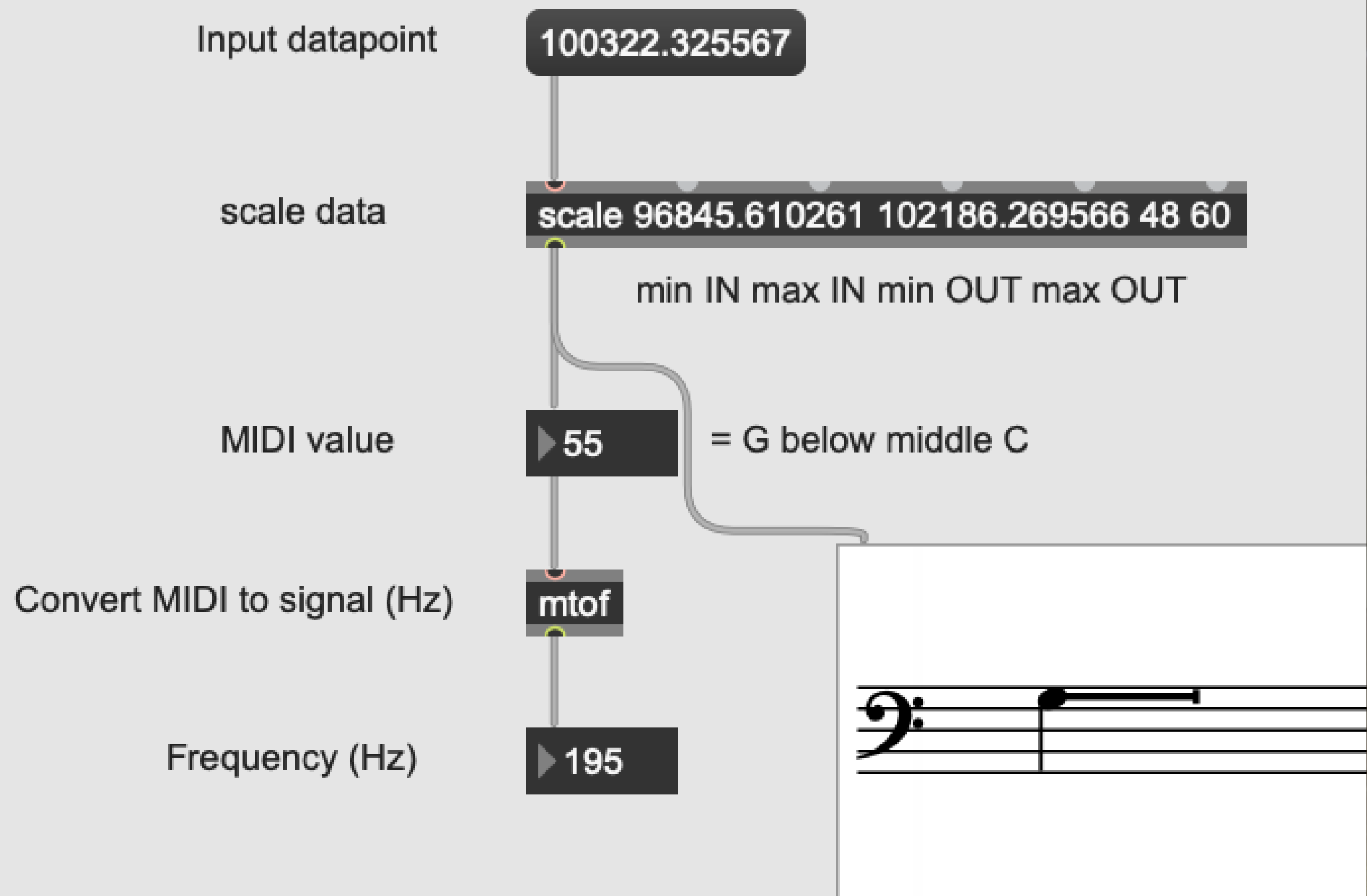


**The rules of physics informing musical structure,  
the hidden harmony within engineering**



2006001,1303472	3.95	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	901663.34, 432629.77,	550158.41,	83136	5.98, 852715.	31, 1260715.19,
2006002,1303472	3.95	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	901663.34, 432629.77,	550158.41,	83136	5.98, 852715.	31, 1260715.19,
2006003,1317066	3.24	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	901663.34, 432629.77,	595342.42,	85590	7.47, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006004,1340971	5.53	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	906439.04, 458823.88,	605747.86,	98025	3.85, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006005,1341677	9.12	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	908697.29, 474574.82,	600826.71,	97063	1.09, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006006,1346556	6.44	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	909717.79, 474574.82,	595938.39,	99265	1.97, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006007,1351076	9.37	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	927602.17, 474574.82,	588978.00, 1	36	0.27, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006008,1353673	6.84	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	927602.17, 474574.82,	590029.18, 1	579	0.38, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006009,1353688	7.64	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	927602.17, 474574.82,	590029.18, 1	579	0.38, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006010,1350542	6.35	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	933999.29, 448185.27,	588279.64, 1	1685	7.87, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006011,1349303	0.93	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	933999.29, 448185.27,	588279.64, 1	1309	1.28, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006012,1349303	0.93	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	933999.29, 448185.27,	588279.64, 1	1309	1.28, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006013,1351334	9.8	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	933999.29, 448185.27,	588279.64, 1	1911	9.02, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006014,1344692	4.78	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	926209.80, 362768.82,	588279.64, 1	1911	9.02, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006015,1330886	3.85	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	911688.79, 331107.77,	531437.67, 1	187	1.73, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006016,1330886	3.85	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	911688.79, 331107.77,	531437.67, 1	187	1.73, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006017,1330886	3.85	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	911688.79, 331107.77,	531437.67, 1	187	1.73, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006018,1341423	8.85	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	914018.57, 340934.92,	570698.60, 1	3580	4.97, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006019,1343739	4.9	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	914018.57, 340934.92,	576231.00, 1	5554	1.81, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006020,1343036	8.56	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	914018.57, 340934.92,	576231.00, 1	5554	1.81, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006021,1353370	4.79	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	914018.57, 353927.55,	576231.00, 1	8136	7.95, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006022,1357599	7.45	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	914018.57, 366647.59,	576231.00, 1	6821	8.88, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,
2006023,1364355	4.58	, 1069710.81	, 966006	.16,	1087102.72,	897773.37	,	915282.18, 371538.48,	568271.59, 1	7660	8.45, 852715.	31, 1260779.00,

# Sea Level Pressure







Ocean ARTic



People · Ocean · Planet





Light Water Is Black Water  
**Michael Begg**

It's a wonderful ambient combination of electronics, field recordings, strings, brass and percussion with sonified data feeds from environmental and earth observation agencies. One of the most stunning instrumental performances of that kind that I've experienced.  
EHFM Radio





"Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting."

Gottfried Leibniz

"It [the theory of relativity] occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception."

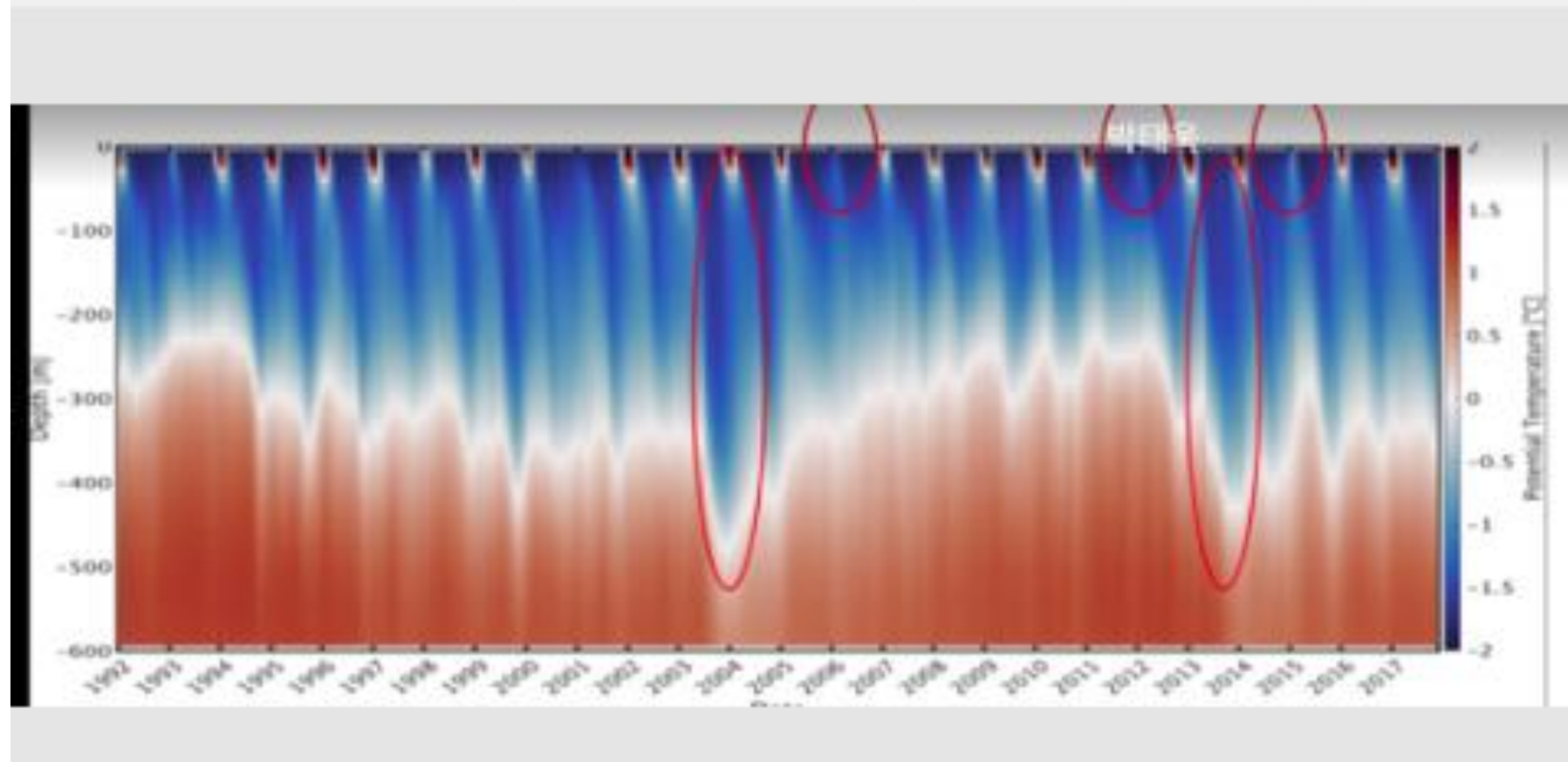
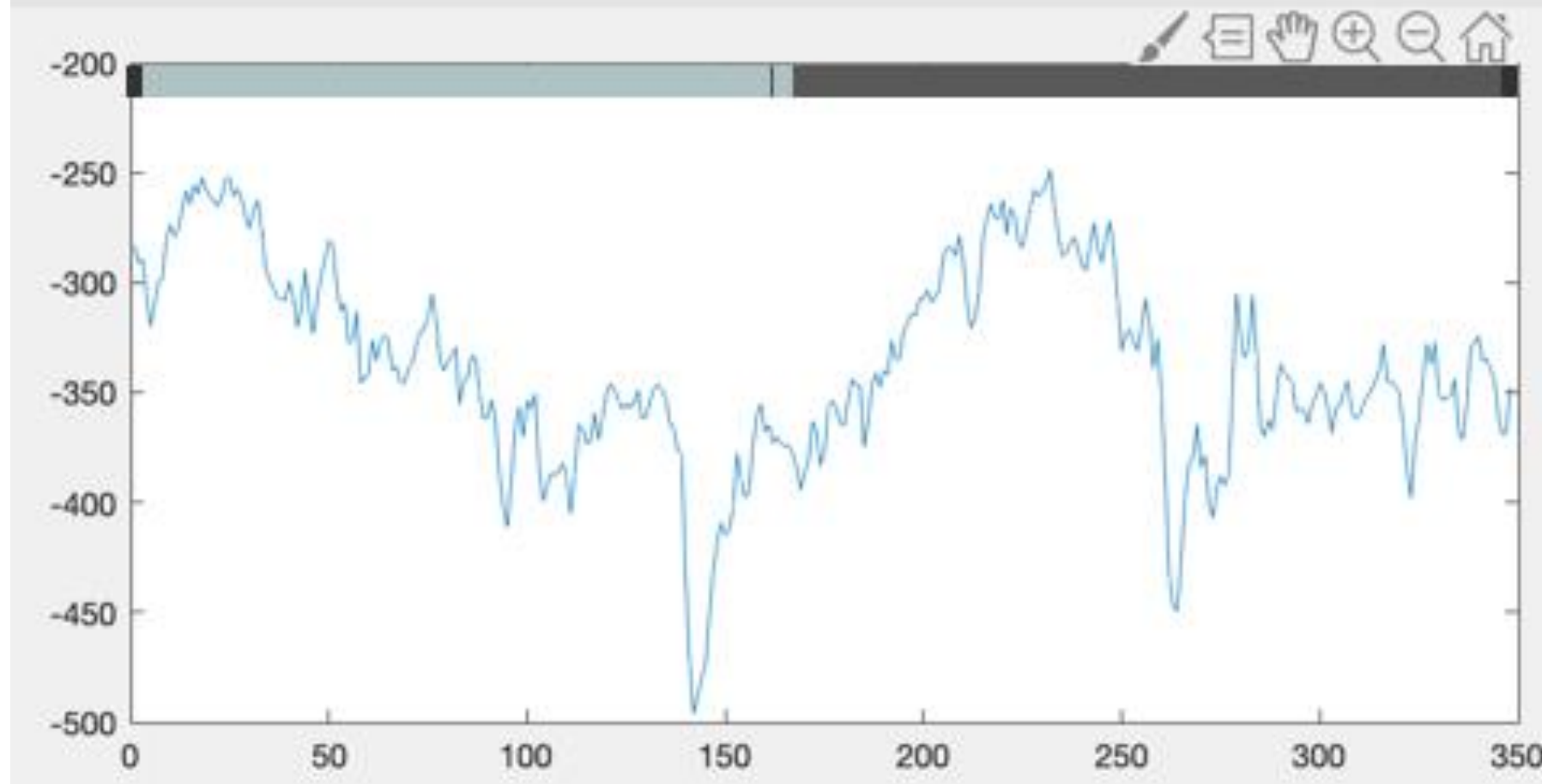
Albert Einstein





248.783m

Depth (visual representation)  
 dataset row: 165 / 348  
 Position in dataset  
 Relative position in data range - 248m - 496m  
 Depth (m): 374.121626



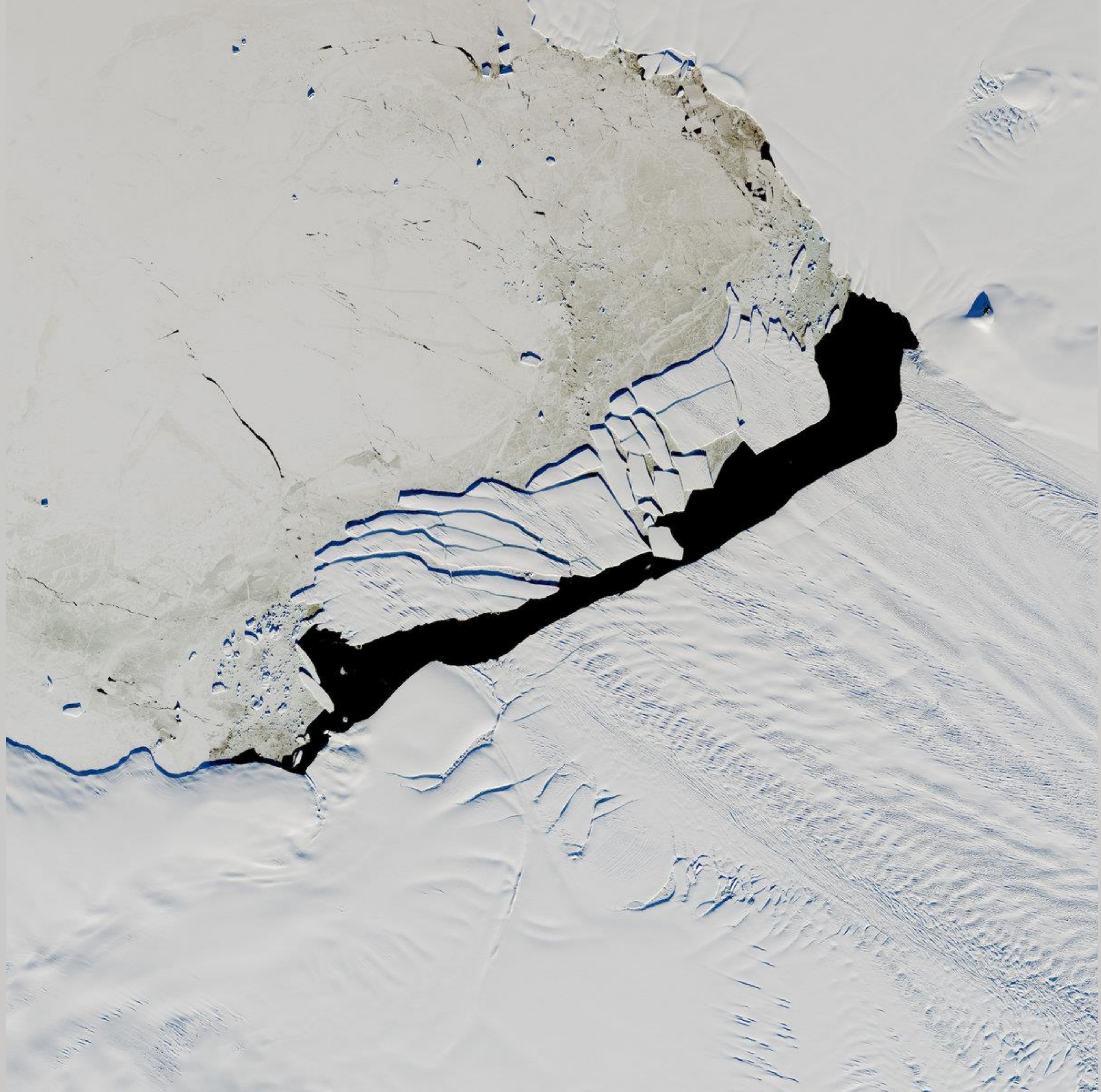
Sea Floor Salinity  
 Ice Thickness  
 Polynya Area  
 Polynya cumulative sea ice  
 Salt Flux  
 Surface Air Temperature  
 Wind

Ice Thickness  
 Sea Floor Salinity  
 Salt Flux  
 Air Temperature

Start data readthrough  
 Data Row No. 9 / 365  
 Return to Start

Master Volume

Air Temperature | Polynya size





EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

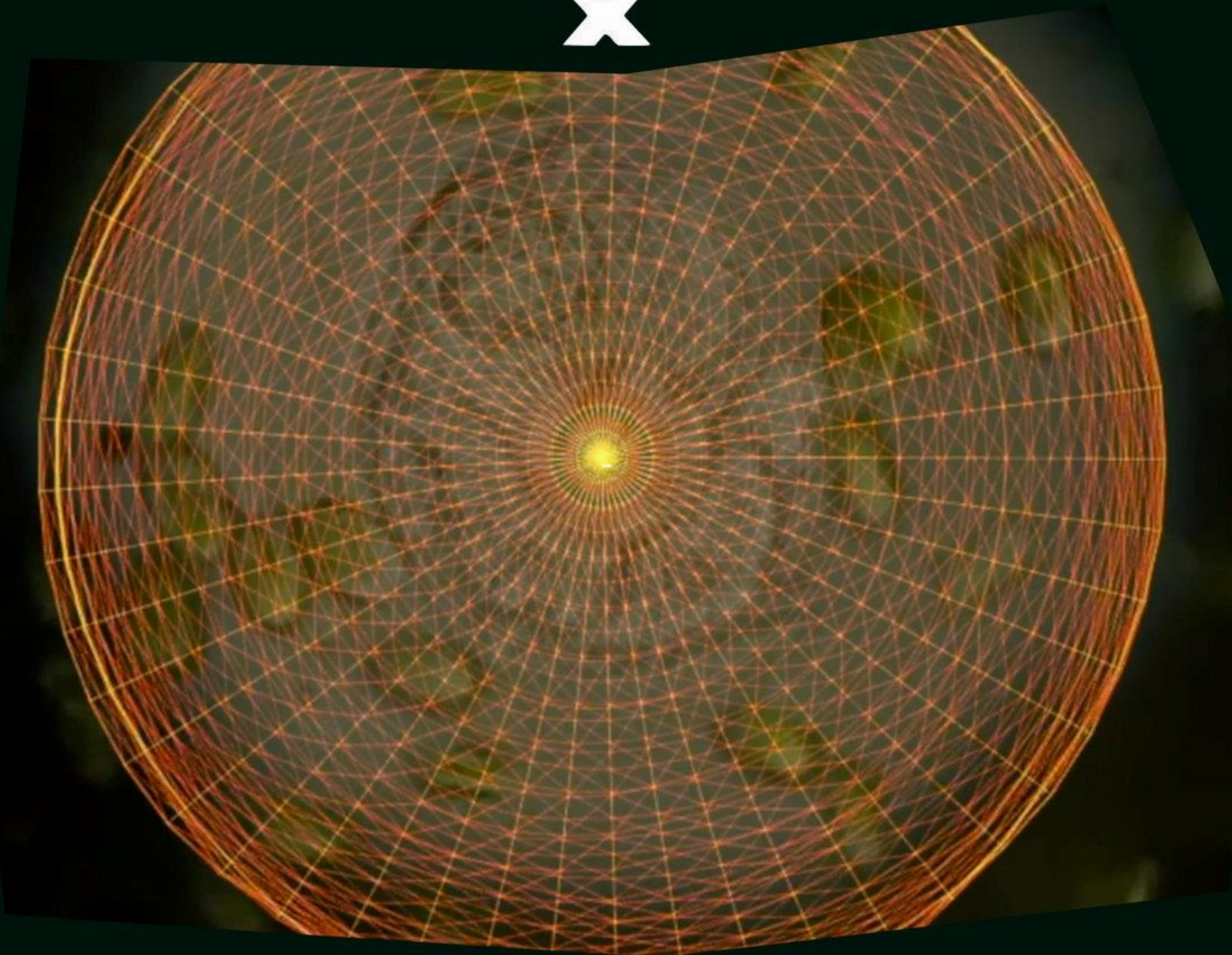
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionOcean

EARTH / PERCENT  
x



EARTH DAY

Home Episodes Clips



Listen now

## As Cold As Ice

Elizabeth Alker presents chilling ambient sounds inspired by the Arctic marine environment, featuring an exclusive first play of a track from Tim Hecker's new record The North Water, which soundtracks a film that follows a doomed Arctic journey. The composer Michael Begg transforms daily average data points for ice concentration and thickness, air temperature, pressure, precipitation and evaporation into melodic lines and harmonic content on his album Light Water Is Black Water. The steep ravines and waterfalls of the Calderdale Valley in West Yorkshire form the inspiration for the latest release by the artist known as Spaceship and there's a little something from a forthcoming Animal Collective album.

Produced by Rebecca Gaskell  
A Reduced Listening production for BBC Radio 3

11 days left to listen  
🕒 1 hour



UPGRADE



## Light Water Is Black Water

Michael Begg • 2021 • 7 songs, 54 min 30 sec



# TITLE

- 1 Invocation Michael Begg
- 2 Data February Michael Begg
- 3 The Arctic Night Michael Begg
- 4 Air Pressure Anomaly in January Michael Begg
- 5 Spring Bloom In May Michael Begg
- 6 Data July Michael Begg
- 7 The Arctic Day Michael Begg

Apple Music

Search michael begg

Listen Now

Browse

Radio

Open in iTunes



## Light Water Is Black Water

Michael Begg

ALTERNATIVE · 2021

Preview

- 1 Invocation 4:16
- 2 Data February 9:00
- ★ 3 The Arctic Night 8:50
- 4 Air Pressure Anomaly in January 6:32
- 5 Spring Bloom In May 9:24
- 6 Data July 7:36
- 7 The Arctic Day 8:52

- In Writing
  - Audio**
  - Video
  - Galleries
  - Events
  - Magazine
  - Subscribe
  - Shop
- On Air
  - In Conversation
  - The Wire Tapper
  - Below The Radar



## Sonic storms 3 To See

From greenhouse gas to strings and brass, Stewart Smith learns how Scottish composer Michael Begg let real climate data inform his latest musical creation.

interesting instruments



**A** key term for us is solastalgia, describing the acute anxiety arising from living through environmental change,' says composer Michael Begg of the inspiration behind *Black Glass In Pieces*. 'It's a curious word. Nobody has heard of it and then, when you tell them what it means, everyone says, "I have that." This is what we are creating music for, to recognise and address that condition.'

Begg formed Black Glass Ensemble to create new forms and processes of music in the place where contemporary classical and experimental electronic meet. 'Such crossover works generally tend to be one side co-opting the other to their own ends, but I was keen that we should definitely meet in the middle, far from our comfort zone. It generates a fragile, intimate context in which we can realise new work.'

A key part of Begg's process is using software to transform data streams (weather systems, climate changes, satellite tracks, lunar eclipses) into sounds and musical scores. 'Combining scores, data streams, atmospheric recorders and structured improvisation, we can project a true soundscape of a planet in crisis, and the musical response to that crisis,' he explains. The result is music of uncanny beauty, where environmental sounds and mysterious electro-acoustic timbres fold into glacial strings and warm brass.

'My main objective for *Black Glass In Pieces* is to find ways to dissolve the divide between audience and musicians,' Begg adds. 'We are going to dissolve the stage and turn time back on itself.'

**Michael Begg And The Black Glass Ensemble: Black Glass In Pieces, Queen's Hall, 16 & 17 August, 8.30pm.**

Breathing new life into the phrase 'triple threat', **Sean Cholburn** (*Assembly Rooms, 6-27 August, 11.30am*) combines traditional dance and storytelling with comedy in *Dog And Dancer*, his all-singing all-dancing Aussie extravaganza. As the 'didj' in the title suggests, this kids' show celebrating Aboriginal Australian culture just wouldn't be complete without the deep vibrations of a didgeridoo.

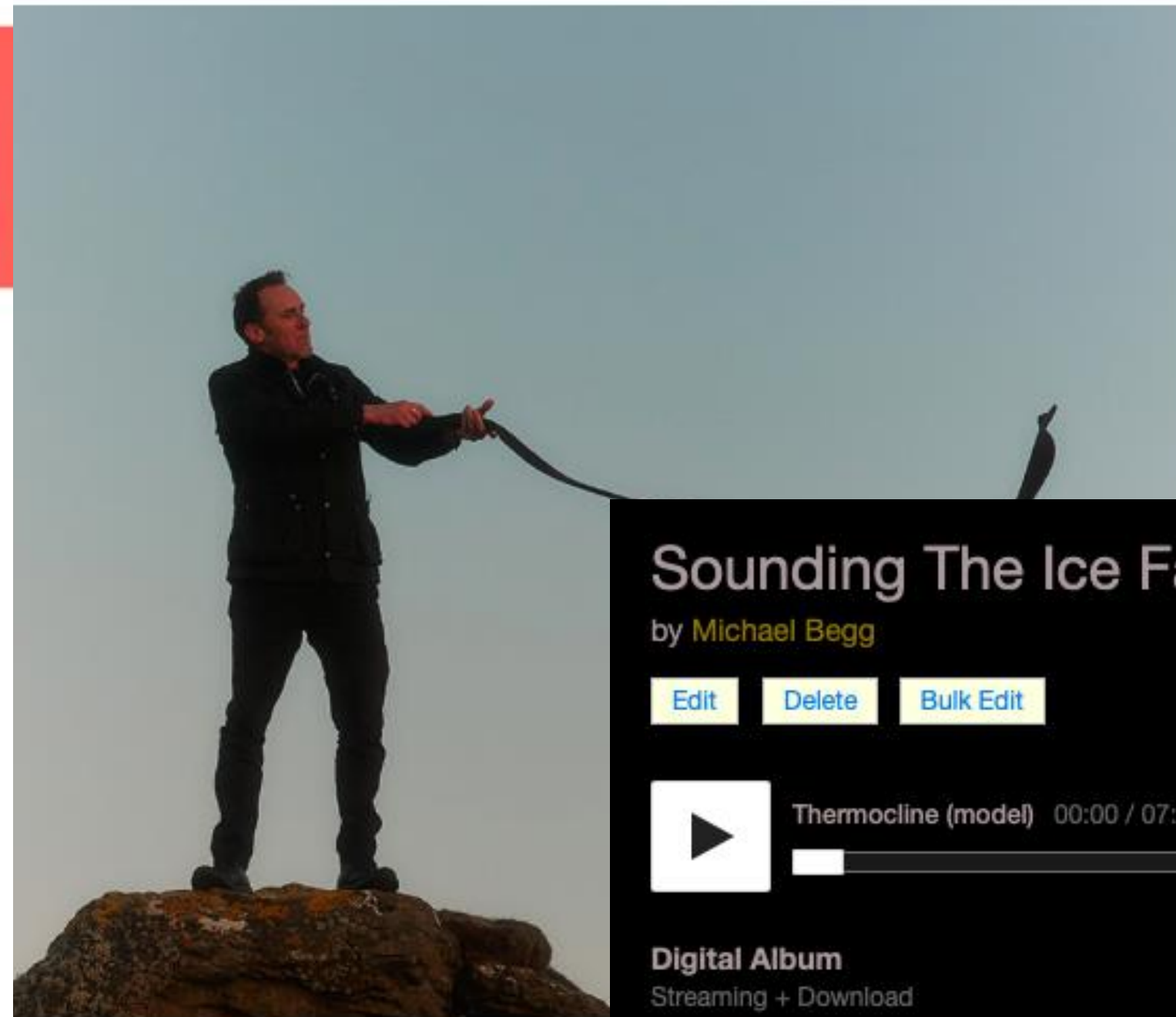
Edinburgh's beloved folk trio **North Sea Gas** (*Acoustic Music Centre, 13, 18, 20 & 25 August, 8.30pm*) return to relay their greatest hits from over the years. Complete with Greek lute-like bouzouki, banjo, fiddles and traditional bodhran drums, the prolific folk band display their musicianship in a show full of stories and song.

In the Planodrome Amphitheatre, a venue entirely constructed from cladded piano parts, harpist **Esther Swift** (pictured, Old Royal High School, 10, 17 August, 8pm; 23 August, 7pm) leads several sound-makers in a cocktail of folk, jazz and classical with *Sound Effects*. Commissioned by Celtic Connections, Swift showcases the harp in all its towering glory while string, brass and percussion players will amplify her traditional compositions to new heights. (Rachel Cronin)

FRINGE MUSIC

### new music by Michael Begg and Black Glass Ensemble

2



Begg in *The Wire* 460. Photo: Ben Millar Cole

## Sounding The Ice Factory

by Michael Begg

- Edit
- Delete
- Bulk Edit



### Digital Album

Streaming + Download

Includes high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more. Paying supporters also get unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app.

Bandcamp exclusive release. Includes 6 page information booklet with scientific context.

**Buy Digital Album** name your price

Send as Gift

- 1. Antarctica 03:22
- 2. Ice Cover 07:13
- 3. Thermocline (model) 07:18
- 4. Ronne Ice Shelf | 02:54
- 5. Pine Island Thermistor | 05:10

## "FIFTEEN" QUESTIONS

INTERVIEWS / ABOUT

### Michael Begg about Data Composition and Music for Human Survival

"I haven't found God yet. But you might say that I have found the place where God should be."

**Name:** Michael Begg  
**Occupation:** Composer, sound artist, musician  
**Nationality:** Scottish  
**Recent release:** Michael Begg's new album *Moonlight and Sentiment* is out via Klang Galerie. Together with The Black Glass Ensemble, he is also exploring "new musical forms for the anthropocene in the margins of classical and experimental music."

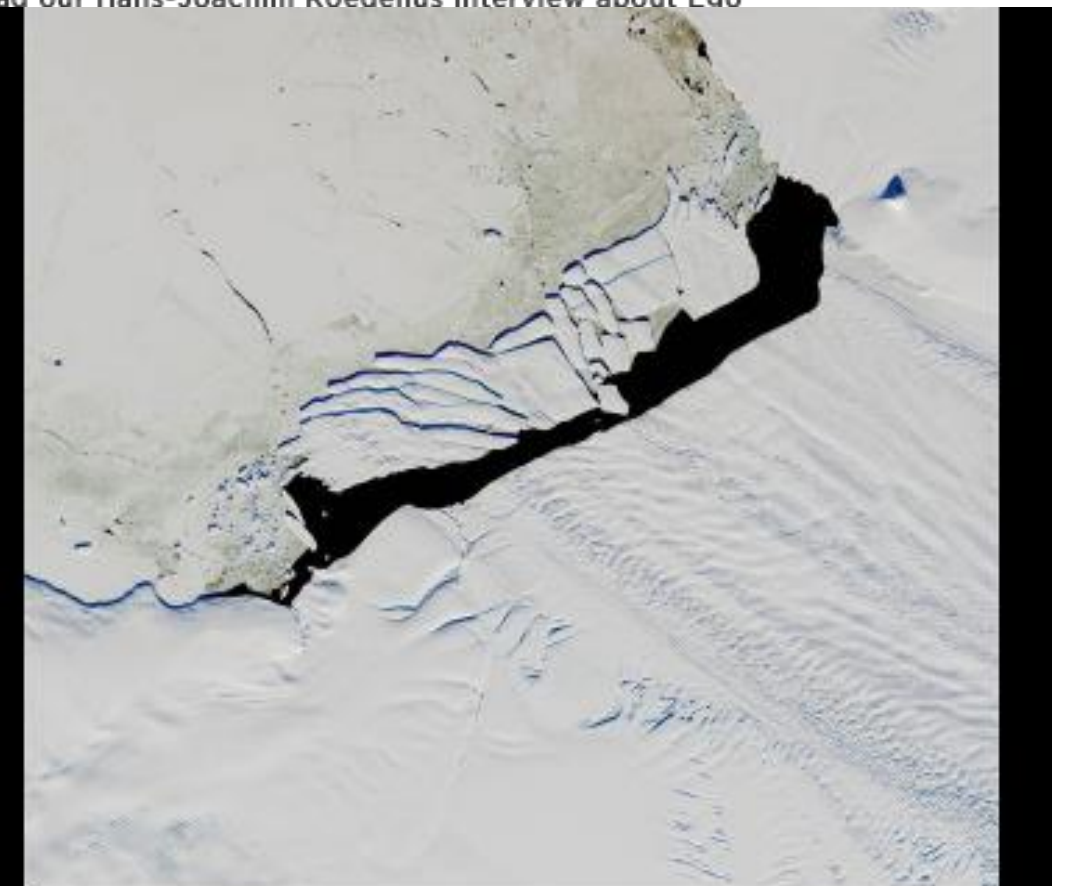
If you enjoyed these thoughts by Michael Begg and would like to find out more about his work, all of his profiles can be found via his [linktree](#).

Over the course of his career, Michael Begg has collaborated with a wide range of artists, including Chris Connelly, Clodagh Simonds's Fovea Hex, and Hans-Joachim Roedelius.

[Read our [Chris Connelly interview](#)]  
 [Read our [Hans-Joachim Roedelius interview](#)]  
 [Read our [Hans-Joachim Roedelius interview about Eao](#)]



Michael Begg Interview Image (c) the artist



Share / Embed Wishlist

supported by





Forward FT  $\bullet \left| \bar{F}(n) \right|$

(inverse to confirm you get  
original time series)  $\square!$

---

Make your data sing!

Thanks for listening



<https://michaelbegg.studio>