

Positive Interactions

Tommy Perman and Friends

Scottish artist and musician Tommy Perman is giving away his new album made from happy sounds in exchange for happy messages.

In September 2020 Perman contacted 50 friends around the world (Australia, England, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Scotland and USA) and asked them to send him a sound that makes them happy. The sounds he received were as diverse as the people who contributed but Perman noticed some common themes:

- a beautiful variety of bird songs
- an assortment of pet sounds (squeaks, meows, purrs, snuffles and barks)
- ambient sounds of nature (particularly water pulling at pebbles on beaches)
- quirky found sounds – both acoustic (door squeaks) and electronic (dishwasher bleeps)
- sounds made in favourite activities (drawing and brewing cider both feature)
- and of course the activity of making music itself

With these sounds Perman crafted a 20 track album – roughly 80 minutes of gentle electronic and ambient music which recalls Boards of Canada, Emily Sprague and Cluster & Eno.

“Now that I’ve finished I want to share this album with as many people as I can. Rather than ask for money I thought it was a nice idea to encourage some happy thoughts.”

Tommy Perman

Tommy Perman’s new album Positive Interactions is out now, available directly from www.positiveinteractions.space. You can ‘buy’ the album by emailing a message about something that makes you happy to: happy@positiveinteractions.space

Notes to editors:

Tommy Perman is a Scottish artist and designer. His most recent music releases are Sing the Gloaming (2020, Blackford Hill) and Emergent Slow Arcs (2019, Fire Records). He won a BAFTA for co-creating an ‘emotional robot band’ called Cybrpahon which is now part of the permanent collection in the National Museum of Scotland. His visual design work has been seen across numerous high profile books, websites, record sleeves, and even projected on the Sydney Opera House.

You can stream the album directly from www.positiveinteractions.space where you will also find videos for all of the tracks. Press images are available from www.positiveinteractions.space/presspack



There are many beautiful stories behind the sounds and Perman has collected these together on a dedicated website: www.positiveinteractions.space. Here are a selection:

“This is the recording that sprang to mind when I read your email. It’s my daughter playing my xylophone, this time last year. So she was 13 months old. Funny to hear her not talking [...] she rarely stops chatting at present”

Jonnie Common, Stirling, Scotland

“The cow is a holy animal for some Hindu communities in India (and also the cause for a lot of unrest and polarisation). This is a man singing as he brings around a richly decorated cow seeking alms (food and money often). He came around our studio often and this was a very familiar sound before the pandemic. It is a sound I miss hearing these days.”

Babitha George, Bangalore, India

“It seemed like a simple request, but the more I thought about it, the harder it became [...] So I took the complete opposite route of digging inside and did a finder search of my Hard Drive. I typed in ‘Happy’ and an old, unfinished session came up with the word ‘happy’ in the title. I listened to it and it made me want to finish it, AND it made me happy...”

Yusuke Hama, Tokyo, Japan.

“I was out walking in the dusk the other night, and heard something that I thought I’d send on for your Positive Interactions [...] standing under a tree in the dark, listening to the owls chat and hoot at the bells, made me very happy indeed.”

Rose Ferraby, Boroughbridge, England

“I recently received an unexpected and rather lovely gift of a kalimba. The little thing sits on my desk where I work and occasionally throughout the day, while I’m thinking, or taking a break, or procrastinating, I’ll have a little play on it. It has such a sweet sound that even my mistakes (of which there are many) are pretty...”

Rachel Simpson, Newport-on-Tay, Scotland

Tommy is available for interviews and can be contacted by email: tommy.perman@gmail.com