

SEA CHANGE 2016: An Adventure of Music and Sailing

SEA CHANGE 2016

Created and performed by **James Boyd** Guitar.

Sea Change 2016 is a new artistic project created by guitarist, raconteur and sailor **James Boyd** that combines the maritime and the musical in a series of unique performances set against the beautiful landscapes, rivers and coastline of South East England.

Launching in late Spring 2016, James will travel in **Concord**, a classic yacht from the 1930s, navigating the richly evocative surroundings of the **Thames Estuary** where Concord was originally built and remains moored today. This journey will begin inland at the historic city of **Norwich** and move towards the sea, taking in the Rivers Orwell, Medway and Swale, stopping at destinations in **Suffolk** and **Kent**, and ending with a celebratory concert in **London** on the River Thames.

Each stop on the Sea Change 2016 voyage will provide a beautiful location for a concert performance. Every performance will be **specially curated** for its destination.

With the stunning British landscape, dramatic coastline and shifting sandbanks of the Thames Estuary as inspiration, James will **collaborate with musicians and artists along the route** to explore and produce new work that will provide a **special experience for the audience** at each stage of the journey.

The travelling nature of Sea Change 2016 looks to a bygone era in Britain when **folksongs** and music was collected from around the country, and brings some of the simplicity, honesty and **storytelling** of this folk tradition into classical music. Collaborating with some of the finest **composers** working in Britain today, along with emerging **writers, poets, dancers** and **performance artists**, the varied soundworlds of contemporary music and classic repertoire will be enhanced and illuminated by these different influences and James' reading of poetry and his engaging storytelling.

The specially curated concerts of Sea Change 2016 will be characterized by all-English programmes that span several centuries and that are strongly influenced by the English landscape and seascape encountered on the voyage. Concerts will range from the lute fantasies of **John Dowland** and the haunting writing of **Benjamin Britten** to **traditional** music and **sea songs**, interwoven with **poetry** and newly-commissioned work for the guitar. Collaborations with **composers** and **artists** at each stage of the journey will enable new work to be **premiered** at every stop and a growing cargo of **new music and writing** will be brought by the boat to the different locations on its travels.

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BACKGROUND TO SEA CHANGE

Sea Change: An Adventure of Music and Sailing was developed in 2012 as a result of a residency at Aldeburgh Festival, supported by Arts Council England. The residency brought together British performers and composers to begin the creation of a new repertoire for the guitar and for guitar with voice. At its heart was the creation of new music inspired by the sea and James Boyd's forthcoming voyages aboard Concord. The residency initiated a number of key collaborations between James Boyd and other composers and artists who share his love of books, poetry and storytelling. These elements remain at the heart of Sea Change and its performances that combine James' unique musical sounds with storytelling and poetry.

Through the creative collaboration of Sea Change, James Boyd has worked with and premiered works by many esteemed composers, singers and artists. He is passionate about creating a new British repertoire for the classical guitar that goes beyond the realms of the traditional classical concert setting.

Collaborators to date include:

- **Elsbeth Brook** Composer Where Lies the Land (2012). For high voice and guitar. First performed by Robin Tritschler and James Boyd.
- **Michael Chance CBE** Countertenor Numerous live performances and recordings together
- **Jonathan Dove** Composer The Immortal Ship (2012). For tenor and guitar. First performed by Robin Tritschler and James Boyd.
- **Alasdair Nicolson** Composer Collaborated during the Aldeburgh residency to develop concept of Sea Change
- **Irene Noel-Baker** Poet Collaborated during the Aldeburgh residency. Inspired initial development of Sea Change through new writing and literature
- **Joshua Ellicott** Tenor Work together includes pastoral and love songs of Schubert and a concert of Nocturnal music.
- **James Laing** Countertenor Performances of Dowland and Schubert alongside contemporary repertoire.
- **Music on the Edge** Classical, jazz and folk trio Chris Caldwell (saxophone) and Susie Hodder Williams (flute)
- **Joseph Phibbs** Composer From Shore to Shore (2011). For guitar and Countertenor. First performed by James Boyd and Michael Chance.
- **Anthony Powers** Composer Collaborated during the Aldeburgh residency to develop concept of Sea Change
- **Lester Simpson** Traditional singer-songwriter Bound by the Fishing (2012). First performed by Lester Simpson and James Boyd. Duo performance of 'Stolen Years', a show about the history of the yacht Concord
- **Robin Tritschler** Tenor Long-term collaborator, performing many concerts, premiering new work, and BBC Radio 3 broadcasts.

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JAMES BOYD Biography

James Boyd has established his reputation as one of the leading exponents of the classical guitar. Recent concert appearances include the Aldeburgh, Bath, Norfolk & Norwich and St Magnus Festivals. Boyd studied at the Royal Academy of Music where he was awarded the Julian Bream prize. His lyrical playing style is strongly influenced by the vocal training he received from the countertenor Charles Brett and he works regularly with the lyric tenor Robin Tritschler and the countertenor Michael Chance CBE. Boyd is one of the few guitarists to centre his career on the commissioning and performance of new English works for the guitar and he has premiered new music by Elspeth Brooke, Jonathan Dove, Joseph Phibbs and Anthony Powers, amongst others. In 2012 he developed the unique creative project Sea Change: An Adventure of Music and Sailing that sees him sail to different ports in England and abroad, commissioning and performing music written about the sea and his voyage. His performances have been recorded for BBC Radio 3 and his album *Shapes of Sleep* was released to widespread critical acclaim. He has lectured at the Royal Academy of Music and regularly gives workshops and masterclasses in guitar for all ages from beginners to professional musicians, often incorporating writing and high performance learning from other disciplines such as dance, circus skills, sailing, Alexander Technique and Authentic Yang style Tai Chi. In 2014 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of his distinguished contribution to music in his field.

PRAISE FOR JAMES BOYD

Lyrical style enriched by a gorgeous tone make this a guitar recital to savour... would that there were more classical guitarists around with Boyd's taste and imagination GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE

A virtuoso musician... a homage to life CLASSIC BOAT MAGAZINE

Intensely lyrical THE INDEPENDENT

The great delight here is the warm, songful, sometimes sing-song lines James Boyd coaxes from his guitar. So that, in Dowland and Tippett alike, he remains a comforting and enthusiastic companion. A clever programme plays to Boyd's strengths—not only his full-bodied tone but also his intelligence. These are performances that are always going somewhere GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE

Britten's expansive solo work reconstitutes in 20 century terms Dowland's ancient melancholia, while Tippett's slightly kinky and harmonically prodigious Blue Guitar emerges as the wild card. Recorded at the Snape Maltings, this album is a beautiful thing CLASSIC FM MAGAZINE

For more information:

Bethany Alexander

bethanyalexander2014@gmail.com

+44 (0)1225 426110 | +44 (0)7983 521709

www.jamesboyd.co.uk