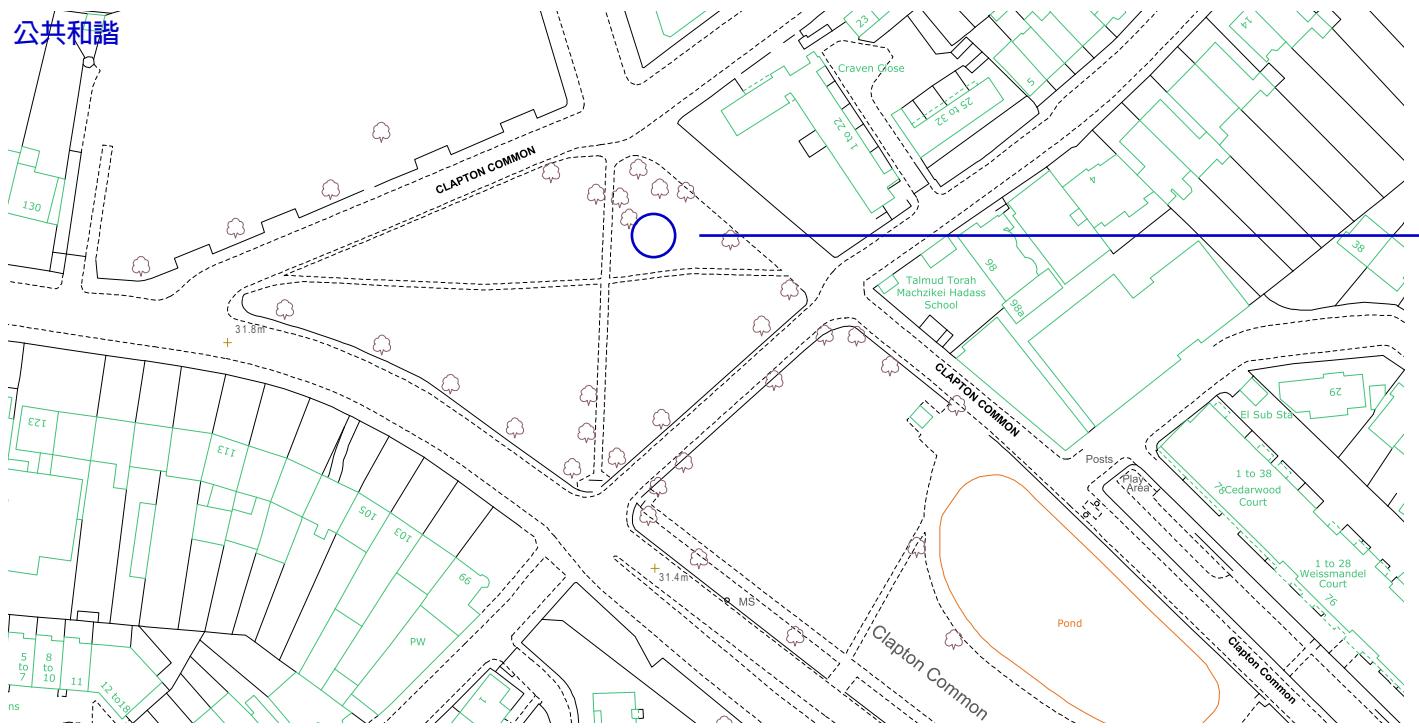


Public Harmonies

A collaborative musical instrument for
public space.

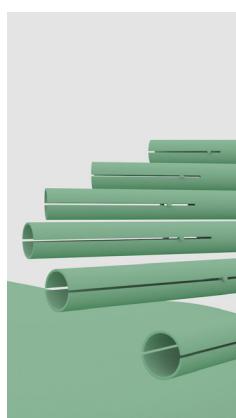
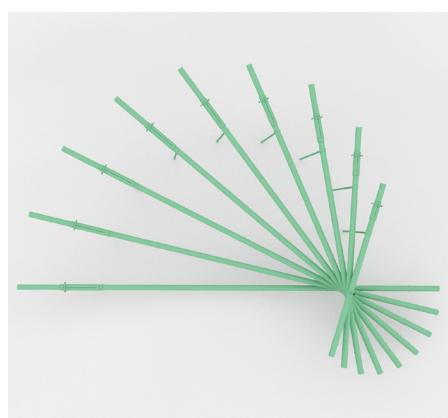
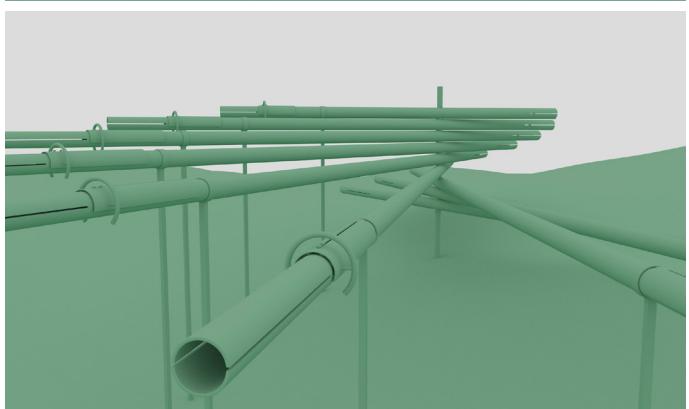
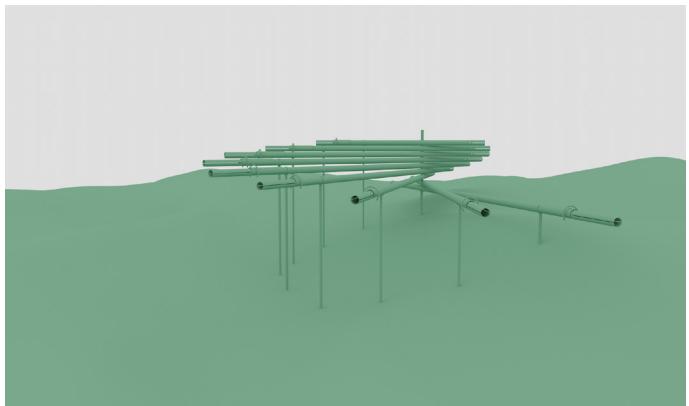
*Marcel Mueller,
Royal College of Art*



"Public Harmonies" is a public musical instrument, creating an opportunity for a communal and positive music making experience, targeting non-musicians and musicians, young and old.

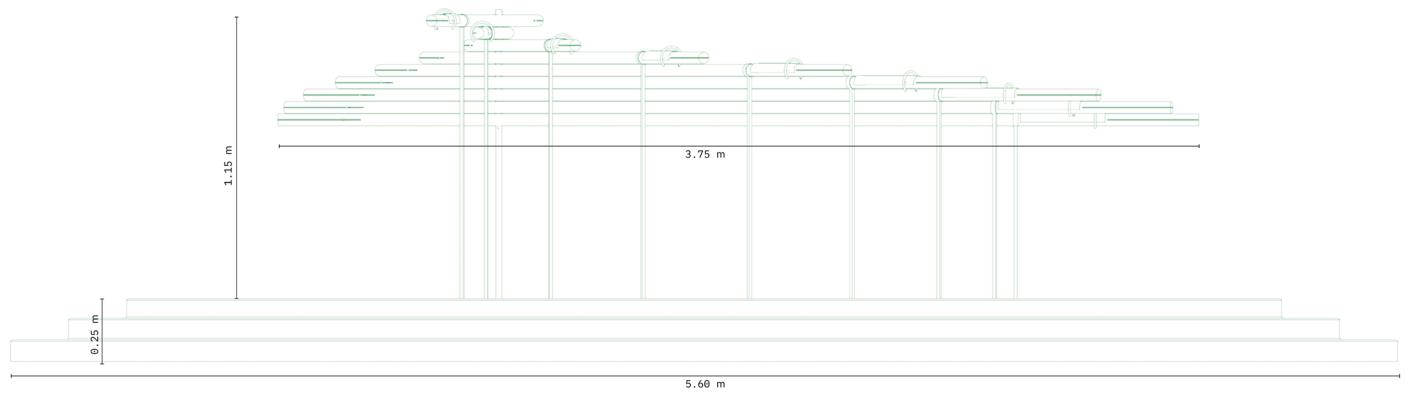
It is designed to cultivate collaborative musical play, which can become a catalyst for positive social interactions between people in the local neighborhood.

It aims to utilize and transform unused public space into a communal place by creating a focus point of collaborative activity through music making.

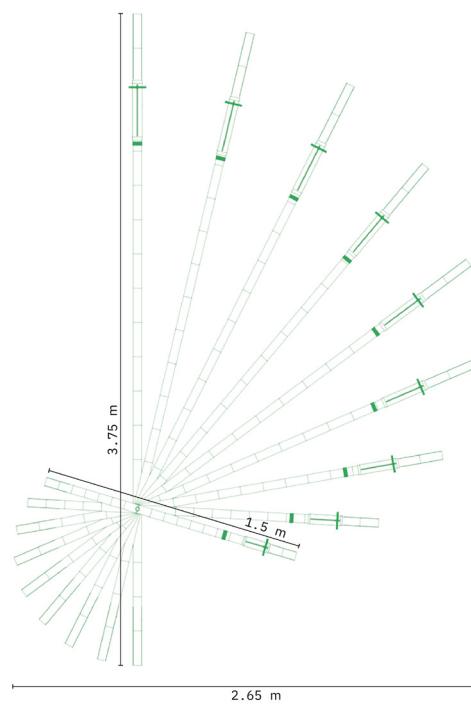
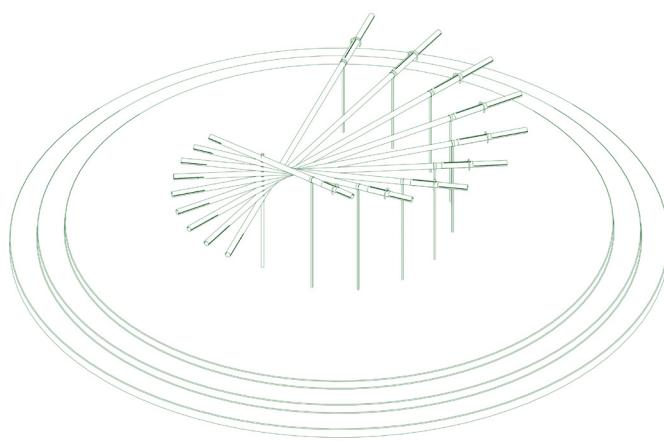




TECHNICAL DRAWINGS AND MEASUREMENTS



The instrument is $3.75 \times 2.65 \times 1.15$ meters big. The platform, mainly concrete, has a diameter of 5.60 m and a height of 0.25 m. It has an estimated maximum sound radius of 25 meters.



THE INSTRUMENT

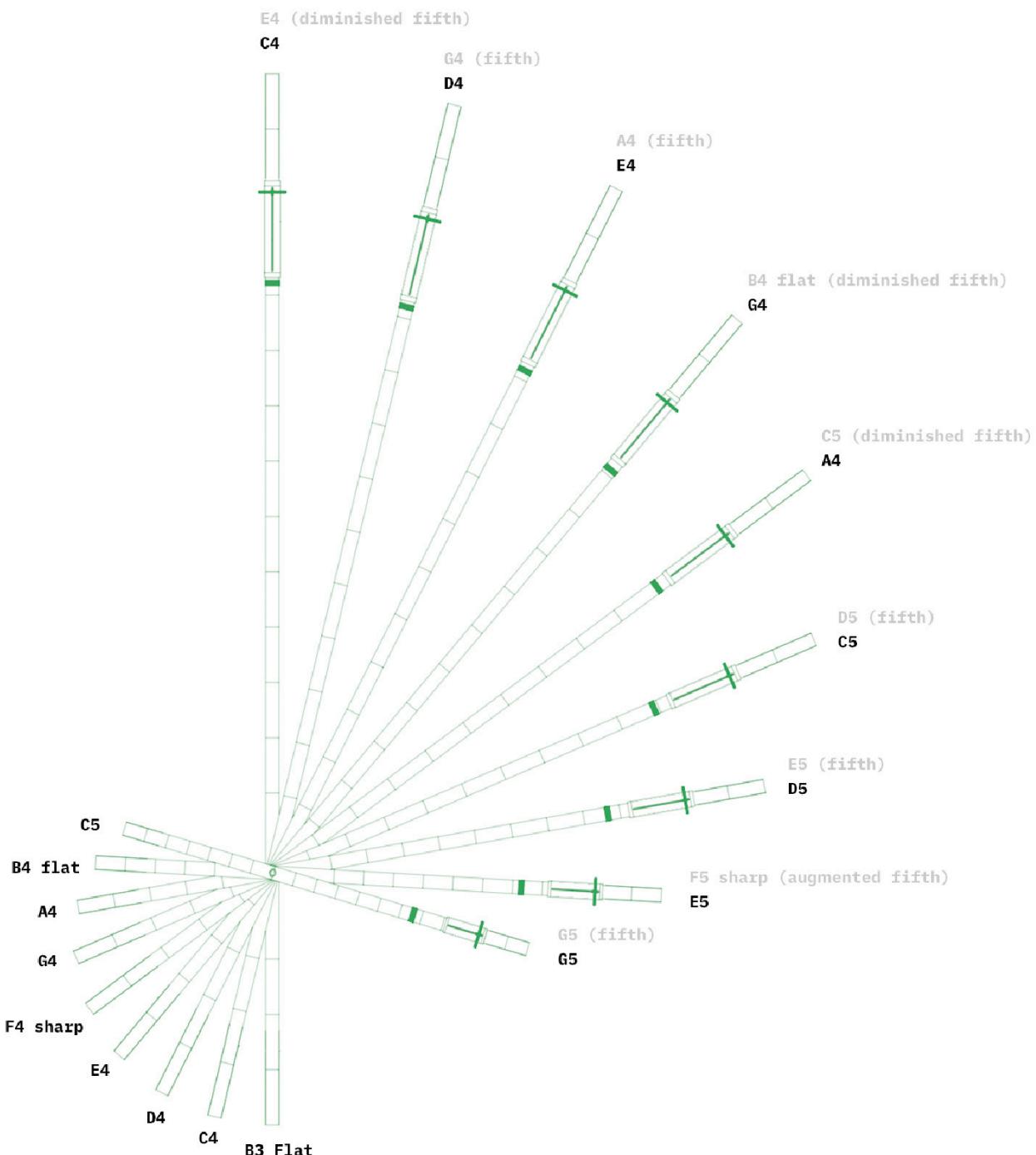
The instrument is played by hitting either ends of the tubes with your hands or any object. Different objects will create slightly different types of sounds, while the note (pitch) stays the same. Each tube has two different notes, while they are a musically a fifth apart.

It is tuned in *C major Lydian dominant scale*, which allows for two things:
Non-musicians will mostly produce harmonic melodies, regardless of which notes they hit. This will leave them with a positive music making experience and might motivate them to play more.

Musicians on the other hand have enough freedom to play lots of individual melodies and compositions, leaving enough space for their creativity.

Hitting the tubes will create a long sustained sound, lowering the importance of having a rhythmical talent.

The arrangement of the tubes is designed, so it supports a face to face collaborative experience, while maintaining an important distance to reduce perceived intimidation with strangers.²



PROPOSAL

I propose to put a public collaborative musical instrument in the area of Clapton Common, shown on the map. It will be produced within the next 3 weeks and exhibited during the RCA Final Show, end of June. Afterwards, it can simply be installed in the area and secured in the ground. The proposed timespan is 3 months. In the case of a 3 month period, it can be installed in the space without creating the big circular plateau, as shown in the picture. Everything longer than that would be absolutely great and could incorporate the circular plateau, hence add the quality of a sitting and spending more time there.

The installation could be very beneficial to the local area. It would trans-

forms the space into a more safe, lively and communal area, therefore strengthens bonds within the neighborhood and between local cultural and religious, currently very isolated communities. I'm proposing the musical installation in this area for several reasons.

Firstly, I live in Clapton and was able to observe the area during the recent months, locally as well as looking at several demographics. Secondly, Clapton Common is an amazing space to bring people together. Yet it offers too little communal activity to do so. At last, the area is very diverse and therefore a perfect opportunity to create a communal focus point within public space.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS

According to *An Essential Guide to BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177*

*Children's Playground Equipment & Surfacing: updated for 2008*¹, the installation fulfills all requirements stated in the document. It utilizes mild steel, aluminum, ventile fabric and concrete. The steel is treated to prevent it from rust-

ing and follows the guidelines for sharp edges.¹

The installation will be set in the round plateau, made out of concrete, or alternatively anchored in the ground. I'm happy to discuss these aspects in more detail.

PUBLIC PROGRAM

In order to promote the installation, the transformed space, it could be accompanied by an opening day, where musicians from the *Vortex Jazz Club* and the *Foun-tayne Road Community* are invited to do a collaborative piece with the public musical instrument.

Contact with *Clémentine Blue* and *Hannes Riepler* has already been established and I am prepared to organize further details on this matter.

Further more, I'm in contact with a recently established restaurant in Upper Clapton, called *Accra Palace*, to accompany the event with food and drinks.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Since the installation will be built now and premiered during the Royal College of Art Final Degree Show in June, the costs of producing it are already covered. In case of a long time installation, funding would be required in order to produce the round concrete platform it potentially sits on.

MAINTENANCE

The installation requires no maintenance. It is weather resistant and will not lose its functionality over time.

1: <https://wicksteed.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/EN1176-and-EN1177.pdf>

2: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proxemics>