

Letter of Invitation

Subject: Invitation to participate in a research project: *The Singing Field: Responses to Participation in Performances of Environmental Vocal Exploration*

Hello Fellow Singer.

My name is Nicola Oddy and I am a PhD Candidate in Cultural Mediations at Carleton University. I am working on a research project under the supervision of Professor Jesse Stewart.

I am writing to you today to invite you to participate in a study entitled “*The Singing Field: Responses to Participation in Performances of Environmental Vocal Exploration.*” This study aims to help me to understand perceptions of participating in performances of improvisatory singing in various kinds of environments.

I am inviting you to participate with 7 other participants by engaging in improvisational singing at 8 environmental sites as a group, in duet and alone. If restrictions due to COVID-19 are still in place when research begins, the number of participants will be no more than five and if allowed, we will perform in large enough outdoor areas or expansive indoor areas so that 5 performers can remain 30 feet apart. If a group of 5 is not allowed, we will work in duet and alone.

In all, the project asks for approximately 16 hours of your time over 6 weeks including; a one-one semi-structured interview with the researcher (1 hour); participation in a preparatory workshop with up to 7 other participants (max.3 hours); participation by performing in 8 site visits on four days (2 hours each for a total of 8 hours); a group discussion prior to and after each of the four site visits (1 hour each for a total of 4 hours) and a final one-one semi-structured interview in which we will discuss your responses to singing in the environments (1 hour). I plan to begin this performance series in September 2020. If COVID restrictions are still in place as we begin, the preparatory workshop, interviews, and discussions will take place using an online video forum.

In addition, you will be asked to keep a journal about your experience that you will allow me to read, or from which you will provide segments for me to read. You will be asked to allow me to audio record the interviews, and to video record the performances and group debriefs before and after performances. Finally, you are asked to allow me to share a final edited video publicly and use your responses in recordings and your journal in the writing of my dissertation. This may include publication as journal submissions or chapters. I may also present this material at conferences and symposiums.

I believe that this will be an enriching experience for those who choose to participate. If this intrigues you and for further information, about risks, benefits and anything else, I would be pleased to hear from you.

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This project was reviewed and cleared by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board A. If you have any ethical concerns with the study, please contact Carleton University Research Ethics Board (by phone at 613-520-2600, ext. 2517 or by email at ethics@carleton.ca).

Thanks for considering,
Nicola Oddy MA RP MTA CCC