

Ray M Dickaty

A Brief Biography

My music making began early with formal lessons on clarinet and flute whilst at secondary school. This followed the traditional path of a classical education and graded music exams in theory and practice.

Continuing my education at university I undertook a degree in fine art specializing in sculpture all the time keeping up my musical interests as a hobby playing in a variety of musical situations especially music from cultures other than my own.

By this time I had graduated onto playing saxophones.

After gaining my degree, in sculpture, I continued my musical education with an intensive year of study in music theory. This led to a wider understanding of many musical forms due to the teaching methods employed at that school and really introduced me to jazz improvisation and other avant garde musical languages such as electro-acoustic composition, various folk forms, jazz and contemporary classical.

After a move from Liverpool to London, it wasn't long before I joined my first "proper" band, Gallon Drunk. I appeared with them at a number of shows in the UK and Europe and on television for the first time...MTV Europe. This was my first touring experience, with many shows being in support of Nick Cave

With Richard Walker, (later to form AMP) I formed Skree who started off as a four piece punk jazz outfit but soon morphed into a more freely improvised jazz/rock format with a core membership and a revolving cast of guest musicians with various instrumentation. As a musician I then began to experiment more with electronically treating my sax sound thus opening up many new avenues of sound to explore. We based our development around a residency at the Royal College of Art, London. Over the next two years we recorded and released two albums and performed many gigs around London and the South East.

With my then trademark 'effected sax' sound, (sax through a variety of electronic effects) I was noticed by David Callahan, ex—Wolfhounds, and the then leader of the band Moonshake and was employed to contribute sax and flute to their 1994 album, "The Sound Your Eyes Can Follow".

During the recording I was asked to become a full time band member and help promote the album by touring Europe and the USA upon completion. At that time we were signed to Too Pure records, label home of PJ Harvey, Stereolab and Cornershop amongst others, so many shows were played with these bands with lots of guesting at each others gigs. After another album for a US label, CZ records, and many tours of Europe and the USA, including at one point Lollolooza with other left field European and American bands we finally decided to call it a day.

In 1997 I was then asked by Jason Pierce (J Spaceman) to play with Spiritualized to support their album “Ladies and Gentlemen we are Floating in Space.”

Asked to become a full time band member some months later, I went on to record a further three critically acclaimed albums including “Live at the Royal Albert Hall”, “Let It Come Down” and “Amazing Grace” the latter two studio albums recorded at Air Lyndhurst and the famous Abbey Road studios.

We also recorded with Dr John on his album “Anutha Zone” I went on to do some live shows with him, Paul Weller, Duffy from Primal Scream and others, covering some new songs and older Dr John classics.

With Spiritualized, I toured extensively throughout Europe, USA and the Far East playing many prestigious venues and shows, such as, The Fillmore in San Francisco, Royal festival Hall/ Barbican in London, Coachella Festival California, Glastonbury, Radio City Music Hall New York and many, many others. We were also the support act for artists as diverse as Neil Young – Hoarde Tour, Radiohead - OK Computer Tour and Ex Talking Head David Byrne.

We also did a series of shows billed as the “Highest gigs in the world”, gaining an entry in The Guinness Book of Records for the highest freestanding gig at the CN Tower in Toronto. We also played The World Trade Centre, New York.

Leaving Spiritualized in 2002, after the first “Amazing Grace” tour, and following up my growing interest in improvisation and free music playing I spent a year studying intensively with founder member of improvising band AMM, drummer Eddie Prevost. Having come to the conclusion throughout my career that improvisation is the route cause of all music that follows no matter if at a later date it is arranged, transcribed and reproduced ad infinitum. During my times with Spiritualized, we had grown too accommodate lengthy improvisation passages into our sets with a greater distinction between them and the songs. The balance between the two forms creating an amazing amount of tension, release and sustained power.

Throughout the years from 1990 to the present, I have had the privilege to have worked with a great number of artists, live and in the recording studio as a band member and as a guest musician, but I have always curated my own musical projects simultaneously. I am constantly learning from others skills such as writing, arranging, recording techniques and new musical forms whilst constantly striving myself for that elusive sound from my sax that one day I may just touch on, if I am lucky..

I also began to understand the business of the music industry from arranging and booking sessions and musicians, liaising with engineers and producers and the various stages of record making from booking studios, recording, to final mastering, cover design and artwork, budgeting and account keeping, final release and touring. This gave me a “slight” overview of how the industry works at all its stages.

After a move back to Liverpool, I have continued to make music. As a player recording and live, and as an educationalist, being a workshop leader in improvisation and music making. I also continue to play in a variety of other situations, compose music and tour with bands, amongst which are The Duke Spirit, AMP, Zukanican and others. I also perform with many improvising musicians, both local and international, in theatres, art galleries and at contemporary dance/art events.

In 2005 I formed my latest “free jazz power” group, The Solar Fire Trio. Working on the ideas of Free Jazz meets Rock, using soul riffs and free blowing over a rigid but flexible drum patterns in many time signatures this is a twin sax, Alto and Tenor, drum band. Our eponymous debut album was released in 2006 to great reviews, leading to a Julian Cope support tour, with the follow up “Rise Up” released in 2007. A new album “Hand to Mouth” has just been released on Sky Fi Industries American indie label.

Current Activities

As well as the continued activities of Solar Fire Trio, I am now playing with Nu-Jazz, Ninja Tune Records band, Loka.

We have done a number of shows including a Canadian tour culminating in a headlining appearance at the Guelph Jazz festival, Toronto, performing alongside such Jazz luminaries as Charlie Haden and Anthony Braxton.

We have played a number of Giles Peterson (BBC Radio 1) sessions also (him being an avid supporter of the band) and performed international festivals with Bill Laswell and Toshinori Kondo.

Currently we are working on a new album due for release late 2009 which is going to incorporate a full 30 piece brass band, orchestral percussion and Welsh Choir.

I have also added my saxophone sounds to a new record by British band Soulsavers. This is due for release late 2009. Again it features Dr John on piano and the voice of American singer Mark Lannegan amongst many other special guests. A tour to promote this album is likely early 2010.

I continue to hold improvised “sound association” workshops in the UK and mainland Europe, as well as playing concerts with local improvisers, and am currently developing links to the new music scene in Poland in the hope of a cross cultural tour of UK and Poland with UK and Polish musicians.

This stemmed from a series of workshops I held in the city of Krakow, (Solvay arts Centre) as well as shows I performed in Warsaw and Krakow with international cellist Micholaj Palosz and is a work in progress in association with AudioTong records.

I also, as a founder member of “The Lost Voices” collective, promote music nights in Liverpool to present new and often challenging music on a monthly basis.



Raymond.M.Dickaty

Saxophones

Appt 16

55 Shaw Street

Liverpool

L6 1HL

United Kingdom

+44 (0) 151 207 7112

+44 (0) 7905 423 119

mesmaray@yahoo.co.uk

Selected Discography

Gallon Drunk

1992 - 1993

Original band member first European tour and television appearance.

Skree

1992 - 1994

My own project, punk jazz improvisation becoming more of a free rock project exploring the nature of improvisation and its role within rock music.

Live and recording.

LP: Fat Mouth Shouts Out. Freek records.

LP: There is a Pop Bone. Freek records.

Stereolab

1994

Recording and writing flute and sax parts on several songs.

LP: Emperor Tomato Ketchup. Duophonic records.

Moonshake

1994 - 1997

Band member. Live and recording.

Three years of recording and touring throughout Europe and US. Critically acclaimed recordings and live shows television and radio appearances.

LP: The Sound Your Eyes Can Follow. Too pure records.

LP: Dirty and Divine. CZ records.

LP: Remixes. CZ records.

LP: Three Fingers and a Thumb compilation. Blast first records.

Single: Cranes. CZ records.

Single: Lola Lola. Clawfist records.

Pinkie Maclure

1995

Live and recording.

Writing and playing sax and clarinet parts for album tracks.

LP: Favorite. Placebo records.

John Moore Revolution 9

1996 - 1997

Live and recording.

Recording and playing live at European festivals with John Moore (ex Jesus and Mary Chain)

Single: Now that my Lover has gone. Acurella records.

Lush

1996

Writing and playing sax.

Single: Lady-killers. 4AD records.

Collapsed Lung

1996

Writing, arranging horn parts for album tracks.

LP: Jackpot Goalie. Deceptive records.

Cornershop

1997

Writing and playing flute and sax on album tracks.

LP: When I was Born for the Seventh Time. Beggars Banquet records.

Spiritualized

1997 – 2002

Band member. Live and recording.

Writing, arranging and playing flute and sax on numerous world tours and appearing on a number of critically acclaimed recordings. Many prestige concert appearances such as The Barbican London, Royal Festival Hall with Sonic Youth (La Monte Young Benefit) Hammersmith Odeon and many more.

LP: Live at the Royal Albert Hall. Arista records.

LP: Let it Come Down. Arista records.

LP: Amazing Grace. Sanctuary records.

LP: The Complete Works vol 2. Sanctuary records.

Single: The Abbey Rd Ep. Arista records.

Single: Stop your crying. Arista records.

Single: Out of sight. Arista records.

Single: Do it all over again. Arista

Dr John

1998

Live and recording.

Playing live and recording with Dr John, a master New Orleans musician.

LP: Anutha Zone. Parlophone records.

Michael J Sheehey

2001 - 2003

Live and recording.

Writing and playing on several album tracks and a number of live appearances.

LP: ill Gotten Gains. Beggars Banquet records.

Thighpaulsandra

2001

Recording sax for album.

LP: I Thighpaulsandra. Eskaton records.

Six by Seven

2001 - 2004

Writing and playing sax and flute on several album tracks and playing a number of live shows as a guest.

LP: The way I feel today. Beggars Banquet records.

LP: Artists, Cannibal's, Poet's, Thieves. SnSm records.

Single: So close. Beggars Banquet records.

Single: IOU love. Beggars Banquet records.

Mesma

2001 - Present.

My own ambient electronic project. Slow moving drone music to happen over extended periods of time. Performed at a number of clubs and galleries.

Tim Keegans Departure Lounge

2002

Live performances. UK.

Eddie Prevost AMM improvisation workshops

2002 -2003

Participant, student. An intense year of study with one of the true originals of the European free improvising scene learning about many aspects of improvised music.

Frakture Big Band

2003 - Present

A large improvising ensemble.

Putting into practice several methods of creating improvised music on the concert platform and in the studio.

LP: Funfzehn. Frakture records.

LP: Live at Cornerstone Festival. Frakture records.

LP: The Oratory. Frakture records.

LP: Picton Room. Frakture records.

Zukanican

2003 - 2006.

An improvising jazz/rock project.

Taking improvising back into the space rock arena.

LP: Horse Republic. Pickled egg records.

LP: Astral. Medical records.

LP: Jarr. Medical records.

The Duke Spirit

2004 - Present.

Writing and recording as a guest for this Patti Smith influenced rock band. Many live shows including Glastonbury, Kasabian, Mark Lanegan tours and television appearances.

LP: Cuts across the land. Loog records.

Single: Dark is light enough. Loog records.

Single: Cuts across the land. Loog records.

Damo Suzuki

2004 - Present.

Live performances with this former singer with krautrock giants Can. Using improvisation to instantly create music in real time in many club venues.

Durutti Column

2004

Live performances.

A privilege and a pleasure to be invited to play with Manchester legend Vinnie Riley and his group Durutti Column.

Merseyside Dance Initiative

2004 various venues.

Holding a series of workshops with dancers and musicians, exploring the relationship between music and dance within an improvisational context. This led to a number of performances throughout the North West region.

AMP

2005 - Present.

Writing, arranging and playing sax and flute on many records and performing as a guest at many live shows with my old friend Richard Amp.

LP: Us. Very friendly records.

LP: Transmissions. Ampbase records.

LP: All of Yesterday Tomorrow. RrooPP records.

The Core Trio

2004 - Present.

An improvising chamber band within the context of a more woodwind centered project.

Performances at a number of North West galleries including the Liverpool biennial.

Noise of Wings

2005

Large improvising ensemble using loud brass and being more of an energy free jazz style project than what is generally regarded as European free improvisation.

Solar fire trio

2005 - Present.

A free jazz power trio combining the energy of free jazz with some of the rules of rock music to produce a harmonious whole, taking free jazz into a more rock centered environment. Live shows include In the City Manchester, Julian Cope support and Freenoise Sheffield.

LP: Solar Fire Trio. Invada records.

LP: Rise Up. Foreign Frequency records.

LP: Hand To Mouth. Sky Fi Records.

Loka

2006 - Present.

Electric jazz band signed to Ninja Tunes record label UK.

Many live shows in the UK and Europe.

Radio 1 session for Giles Peterson. Tours of Canada, Guelph Jazz Festival with Charlie Haden and Anthony Braxton.

Greece with Bill Laswell and Icelandic rockers Mum.

2008 Recording new album, due out 2009.

Super Numeri

2006 – Present Live

Electric jazz band. BBC radio 3 session

The Cubical

2008 – Present

Live and Studio recordings for album to be released 2008.

Flowers of Hell

2007

Lp: Come Hell or High Water.

Transatlantic rock project featuring members of Patti Smith Group, John Cale Band, Guided By Voices, Tindersticks and many, many others. Release 2009.

Soulsavers

2008

New album featuring Dr John, Mark Lanegan, Bonnie Prince Billy and many others, due out 2009.

Addendum;

Touring

Extensive tours of USA, Canada, Japan, Europe and UK.

Including Lollapalooza, Neil Young Horde Tour, Radiohead, CMJ New York, SXSW Texas, Coachella Festival, Meltdown at Royal festival Hall, Glastonbury, Flux Festival, Carling Weekend, Benicassim Spain, Barbican, Colston Hall and many other venues

Radio

Many radio sessions including

John Peel Sessions for BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 6, Xfm, Radio 3, Resonance Radio, City and College Radio USA and Canada many European Radio Stations.

Television

Many UK TV shows including

Top of the Pops, The Jools Holland Show, Jo Whiley Show, TFI Friday, Weapons of Mass Distraction, Televised Festival appearances.

Jay Leno Show USA, NBC, CBC Canada.

European Television in Italy, Spain, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France.

Miscellaneous

I currently run workshops in Improvising music within many contexts.

This has led to holding workshops culminating in performances and recordings for participants in the U.K and Europe.

Tour Managing

During my time as a musician I have very often had to take on the role of a tour manager whose duties may include ; Hotel booking, vehicle hire, Liaising with agents and promoters, dealing with the financial aspects of touring.

Accounts, daily expenses and general tour duties, paying for musician crew services and the collection of payments at the shows.