

Donald Bousted ☼ Floating on my Cloud



This album is a posthumous collection of world premier recordings of Donald's non-microtonal music, and includes a ukulele piece, both written and played by him, as the title track. Many thanks to his collaborators Lee Ferguson, Lena Gersbacher, Celia Ireland, Maiko Matsuoka and Elena Ralli for taking the time to specially record his music, and to Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou for not only producing some recordings for us, but also for her Post- Production work on the whole release. A huge thank you to Donald's daughter, Dot for creating the album cover!

*Stephen Altoft
Donald Bousted Edition
27th February, 2025*

TRACKS:

1. Emotional Chords
2. Four Pieces: 1. Sonorities
3. Four Pieces: 3. Moto Perpetuo
4. Sunday Solos: I. The Bitter Taste
5. Sunday Solos: II. Line
6. Sunday Solos: III. Gavotte
7. Swan defeats Raven, by Meditating on the Nature of God
8. Two Responses to Silence: I. Strictly in time
9. Two Responses to Silence: II. Intense, delicate
10. New Scunthorpe Rhythm and Blues: I. Playfull
11. New Scunthorpe Rhythm and Blues: II. Relaxed, Spacious- Rhythmic,
Raucous
12. New Scunthorpe Rhythm and Blues: III. Stark, Illusive
13. Floating on my Cloud

Performers:

Lee Ferguson, vibraphone
Celia Ireland, recorders
Maiko Matsuoka, Violin
Stephen Altoft, trumpet
Lena Gersbacher, oboe
Elena Ralli, piano
Donald Bousted, ukulele

Programme Notes:

Emotional Chords (1989/ 2020) for solo vibraphone is dedicated to the composer Peter Thompson, and written for the composer/ percussionist Martin Bright. Peter, Martin and Donald were, together with Andrew Newton, members of the composers' collective, 'Four Composers'.

Four Pieces (1989) for Two Alto Recorders (pub. Orpheus) was first performed at Kent Music School, Tonbridge by Kathryn Bennetts and Peter Bowman in 1989 and widely since. Selected for the North East New Music series 'The Recorder Reborn' in 1998, this particular pair of pieces were performed regularly by Becky Davey and Celia Ireland during the late 1990s.

Sunday Solos was brought together in 2017 from previously written pieces and sketches dating back to the 1990s and before. The title is inspired from the novel *The Magic Toyshop* by Angela Carter and, in particular, from Francie's virtuosic violin playing which occasionally lightened the tense atmosphere of Uncle Philip's toyshop.

The pieces can be played as a suite or separately or rearranged in any order. Some early versions of the work were first performed by Arijit Chakravarty at Burgh House, Hampstead, London.

Swan Defeats Raven, by Meditating on the Nature of God (2016) for oboe and trumpet was written for Lena Gersbacher and Stephen Altoft. There is also a version for flute and trumpet which was first performed by Stephen Altoft with Helga Zuccaro in Ludlow, UK.

Two Responses to Silence (1985) were originally written for flute, but later revised in 1998 for solo tenor recorder (pub. Orpheus). They were first performed by Celia Ireland (Recorder) at Birkenhead Sixth Form Centre, UK, in November 1998. The first London performance was given by Rachel Barnes at St. Cyprian's Church in November 2002.

New Scunthorpe Rhythm and Blues (2015 rev. 2021) for trumpet and piano, is dedicated to Stephen Altoft and Elmar Schrammel. The title has two references: Stephen was born at the Scunthorpe General Hospital, and the 'Rhythm and Blues' influence comes from listening to the radio during Donald's frequent car journeys between Norfolk and London.

Floating on my Cloud (2021) was written for the 'First Ukulele Pieces' Book Two, as part of the UK-based 'Ukulele Project'. Donald also recorded to video, several of the pieces by other composers from Book One and Two for their YouTube Channel.

<https://ukuleleproject.co.uk/firstukulelepiecesbooktwo/>



Donald Bousted, composer, ukulele

Donald Bousted (1957-2021) was a composer, mixed media artist, producer, guitarist and ukulele player. His compositional work is often based on intimate explorations of one or two instruments, sometimes with electronics. From 2000, he collaborated with visual artists and sought to integrate elements of film, still images and live art into his oeuvre. He is perhaps best known for his microtonal music, which has been an interest since he was a student. He has written music using quarter- and eighth-tones, in just intonation, and a substantial body of work in 19-division tuning (19 pitches per octave).

Donald was the founder and Artistic Director of Microtonal Projects and had a 23 year project with Stephen Altoft called *The Microtonal Trumpet*. He was Musical Director of EUROMicroFest and the curator of mixed media events which have included 'Wild Dog' and, in 2010, a Late at Tate (Microtonal) at Tate Britain.

A number of works, including the installation with Gary O'Connor *broader than Broadway* and the mixed media pieces *in your dreams*, *touch*, *in preparation* and *the black hole* utilise 'home-made' speakers made by attaching exciters to musical instruments, glass, floorboards and walls. These pieces reflect an interest in collected sounds and our emotional reaction to sound outside its normal context.

In 2014, Donald completed his 57 minute *19.5*, a work in 19 divisions of the octave, commissioned by duo Contour (Stephen Altoft, trumpet and Lee Ferguson, percussion). The 12 movement work, written for a specially designed trumpet and a malletKat (MIDI mallet instrument) is one of a number of works written for acoustic instruments using non-standard tunings. In 1995-6 he wrote a similar tour de force for two recorders in quarter-tones, the nine movement *A Journey Among Travellers* which was recorded, by Kathryn Bennetts and Peter Bowman, with the financial assistance of the Arts Council of Great Britain in 1998.

Donald completed a PhD in musical composition from the University of Huddersfield where he worked for 8 years as a lecturer in composition from 1992 to 2000. He was a Leverhulme Artist in Residence at the London Metropolitan University in 2000-1 and also worked as a part-time lecturer at Kingston University. He presented his music and projects at many UK university music departments and conservatoires including the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity College of Music, Leeds, Huddersfield, York, Keele, Goldsmith's and Surrey universities and in America at LA MicroFest, in South Korea, in Austria at the symposium 'Mikrotöne- Small is beautiful', at the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel and in Germany at the Akademie der Tonkunst, Darmstadt and Staatliche Hochschulen für Musik in Freiburg and Mannheim.

He often gave joint presentations with Stephen Altoft with whom he wrote a pdf book, *The Microtonal Trumpet* and 24 supporting pedagogical studies, both of which are available through Microtonal Projects.

He was a joint author of *The Quarter-Tone Recorder Manual* (Moeck, co-authored with Kathryn Bennetts and Peter Bowman) and composed some 22 pieces for recorder from beginners pieces to very advanced. His two collections for early grades are both represented in the Trinity College of Music Syllabus (Grades 1 and 2).

As a producer, Donald worked as a sound recordist and post production editor in the film industry and with a number of musicians. He produced all three of Stephen Altoft's solo CDs and digital albums *The Yasser Collection*, *RASP*, and *Time Dreaming*.

In 2017, Donald turned his attention to the ukulele, an instrument he was drawn to for its sound. He released his first CD in 2020, *The New Classical Ukulele*, followed by *Barry Tone's Fantastic Adventures* (2021), and then the digital album, *Cross/Over*. In July, 2021 he recorded 2 *Suites for Ukulele* by Gilbert Isbin which is available on BANDCAMP. Many composers wrote pieces for him including Gilbert Isbin, Jim Dalton, Hilary Robinson, Loretta K. Notareschi, Dimitri van Halderen, Martin Bright, Geoff Cox, Stephen Altoft, Choan Gálvez, Peter Thompson, Jane Wells, Nickos Harizanos, James Else and Alan Bullard. He had duo projects with percussionist Lee Ferguson and recorder player Celia Ireland.

Stephen Altoft, trumpet

Stephen Altoft is dedicated to the creation of new repertoire for the trumpet. As a solo artist, and with percussionist Lee Ferguson as duo Contour, he has given concerts throughout Asia, Europe, the United States and Canada. For over twenty years he researched the microtonal possibilities of the trumpet with composer, Donald Bousted, and at Musik Gillhaus (Freiburg, Germany) has developed a fourth (rotary) valve mechanism to enable the conversion of his existing trumpets into microtonal instruments (a 19-division B flat trumpet and quarter-tone C trumpet). More recently, he has also been developing programmes for a flugelhorn in 12-, 19-, 24- and 38-divisions of the octave in an harmonic environment.

The scope of Stephen's work as an improviser began with the experimental (new music) and now includes what has been referred to as 'intuitive music': being open to a variety of styles, sounds and spontaneous influences. He currently has projects with the accordionist, Karin Fleck, the double bassist, Johannes Nied (FLOWduo, microtonal music) and the guitarist/ lutenist and composer, Gilbert Isbin. His work with Isbin began with *Soundscapes*, which have been released on YouTube, and also on Bandcamp by the Belgian label, Jazz'halo, and was selected by Jazz in Belgium for their Retrospective 2024 Playlist collaboration with Musiq3. Their second project, *Rencounter*, is also on YouTube and a larger selection of tracks is to be released on Bandcamp this year.

Lee Ferguson, vibraphone

Lee Forrest Ferguson devotes himself primarily to new music in the solo repertoire and chamber music, and performs with the Holst Sinfonietta, the Neue Musik Initiative, SUONO MOBILE, and together with trumpeter Stephen Altoft in duo Contour. As a co-founder of the Black Forest Percussion Group, he coordinated the performance of Steve Reich's DRUMMING in 2016. He collaborates with percussionist/composer Michael Kiedaisch, flutist Helga Zuccaro, sound artist Ephraim Wegner, pianist/improviser/composer Thomas Wenk, improviser/composer Harald Kimmig, designer SUAN. His commitment to teaching new music also includes the development of projects specially designed for schools, such as *Paper Music* and *Spielzeug Musik* ('Toy Music').

Lena Gersbacher, oboe

Lena Gersbacher began her studies in oboe at the Karlsruhe University of Music. As a scholarship holder of the German National Academic Foundation, she spent a year abroad at the Royal Academy of Music London. She graduated from the Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts.

Engagements have taken her to several orchestras, including the orchestra of the National Opera and Ballet Amsterdam, the Philharmonie Zuidnederland, the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Freiburg Theater, the Bochum Symphony Orchestra and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra.

In addition to teaching, she is passionate about chamber music with styles from all eras, unusual instrumentations and the baroque oboe.

Celia Ireland, recorders

Celia graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, in 2003 and is well-respected as a specialist recorder performer and educator. As a member of the recorder ensemble, The Flautadors, Celia has performed at London's Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall as well as at major Early Music festivals throughout the UK. The Flautadors have released five critically acclaimed albums, gaining a reputation for their research, varied programming and development of new works for the instrument. In 2021, The Flautadors premiered Cheryl Frances Hoad's *Pieces of Light*, in celebration of their twentieth anniversary. Alongside more typical recorder repertoire, Celia enjoys exploring diverse collaborations, including performing on *The Awakening* film score at Abbey Road Studios, the video premiere of *Raga Pahadi* by Jonathan Mayer (2021), recording new repertoire for recorder and ukulele with Donald Bousted (2021) and performing with folk legend Vashti Bunyan at the Barbican (2022) and The Roundhouse (2024).

Maiko Matsuoka, violin

Graduated from the Toho Gakuen School of Music, Department of Performance, and completed the graduate course at the same university. She continued her violin studies in the International Ensemble Modern Academy at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt. She was awarded second prize in the "Kyogaku XI" performance competition sponsored by the Japan Society for Contemporary Music. She has appeared at international music festivals and concerts including the Darmstadt Summer Contemporary Music Week, Salzburg Festival, June in Buffalo (USA), Tongyeong International Music Festival (Korea), Suntory Summer Festival, and others. The focus of her performing career is on contemporary music, and in this capacity she has premiered many new works.

Elena Ralli, piano

Elena Ralli, born in Athens, Greece, lives and works as a composer, pianist and sound director in Freiburg, Germany. In her artistic work, she seeks ways to make the intangible tangible through technology in the sensuality of sound. Her compositions include instrumental music with electronic media, performance with electronics and interactive sound installations. Her PhD research topic is

entitled “Development of compositional processes using data from various fields of astrophysics”. Since November 2024 she has been working as a trainee sound director at the SWR Experimentalstudio. After studying Astrophysics (B.Sc.) in Athens and training as a pianist (B.Mus.) in Freiburg, Elena completed a degree in Electronic Composition (M.Mus.). Her works have been performed in Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. She has been awarded scholarships, including those from the Paul Sacher Foundation and the Hans Böckler Foundation.

Production Information:

Emotional Chords:

Lee Ferguson, vibraphone

Recording: Lee Ferguson, Freiburg, DE, July 2022

Mastering: Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Sonorities and Moto Perpetuo (from Four Pieces)

Celia Ireland, recorder- multi-tracked.

Date of recording: 14th December 2022

Place of recording: Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK

Recording: Christian Forshaw

Instruments used:

Sonorities- Von Huene Rippert alto recorder in boxwood

Moto Perpetuo – Fehr alto recorder in grenadilla

Mastering: Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Sunday Solos:

1. The Bitter Taste
2. Line
3. Gavotte

Maiko Matsuoka, violin

Recorded: 29th October, 2020

Recording: Studio Neighbors, Tokyo, JP

Editing and Mastering: Donald Bousted

Swan defeats Raven, by Meditating on the Nature of God:

Lena Gersbacher, oboe

Stephen Altoft, trumpet

Recorded: Freiburg, DE, June 2022

Producers: Lee Ferguson, Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Recording, Editing, Mastering: Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

New Scunthorpe Rhythm and Blues:

Stephen Altoft, trumpet

Elena Ralli, piano

Recorded: Freiburg, DE, September 2022

Producers: Stephen Altoft, Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Recording, Editing, Mastering: Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Two Responses to Silence:

Celia Ireland, recorder

Date of recording: 14th December 2022

Place of recording: Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK

Recording: Christian Forshaw

Instruments used: Yamaha tenor recorder in satinwood

Mastering: Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Floating on my Cloud:

Donald Bousted, ukulele

Recording: Donald Bousted, 2021, Norfolk, UK

Album Production: Stephen Altoft and Vasiliki Kourti-Papamoustou

Artwork: Dorothy Bousted

Photo: Donald Bousted

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