

### 300 word description of Pillars of Wisdom

Pillars of Wisdom is a site-specific composition designed for the acoustic of the newly refurbished reading room at Manchester Central Library. The piece is informed by acoustics, and was a collaboration with Prof. Trevor Cox of the University of Salford and performed as part of Manchester Science Festival.

The piece originated with the observation that since renovation, the original obtrusive multiple slap-back reverberence of the space had been reduced to a single prominent slap-back reverberation. This was measured by myself and research student Adam Hart as 0.216 sec. The metronome marks in the score are all related to this measure - crotchet = 139 means the echo has the value of a quaver. Hence half the material heard on the 360 video recording actually originates in the echo.

The piece was presented as an 'in the round' performance, with the audience able to wander round the space while the two percussionists played. This mobility was encouraged by the part for one of the percussionist being stuck to the pillars around the room - to play the next part of the material, the mobile percussionist had to move to the next pillar. This encouraged the audience to follow, and experience the different behaviours of the acoustic in different locations.

The prominent use of the D-A diad was to embed the pitches into the audiences mind through repetition, and to therefore raise their awareness of the pitched content outside the library as well - the metro link trams which run past the library in St Peter's square play this diad as an 'in city' warning signal.