

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ben Brown turns public sculptures into musical instruments with *Sound Sculptures*

Presented by Vancouver New Music

Ben Brown (Vancouver)

Sound Sculptures

Sundays September 12, 19, 26 + October 3, 2021 *

Free outdoor event

Locations:

September 12; 3PM Dragon Skin Pavilion (UBC)

September 19; 3PM Gate to the Northwest Passage (Vanier Park – Kitsilano)

September 26; 3PM The Swimmer (Vancouver Aquatic Centre – Burrard & Pacific)

October 3; 6PM Solo (Devonian Harbour Park – Coal Harbour)

Vancouver, BC – With his new project, ***Sound Sculptures***, drummer and composer **Ben Brown** has set out to actively explore Vancouver's "playability" as a city.

An avid sound explorer, a wonderfully heterodox musician, Brown is a Juno award winning drummer and student of celebrated percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie. Brown's interest in embodying sound vibration and found percussion led him to a practice of playing public structures like pitched percussion instruments. For *Sound Sculptures*, he has identified four public artworks in Vancouver that are distinctly musical when struck by soft felt mallets: Dragon Skin Pavilion (UBC), Gate to the Northwest Passage (Kitsilano), Solo (Coal Harbour), and The Swimmer (Vancouver Aquatic Centre).

Since April 2021 Brown has been meeting weekly with collaborators from **All Bodies Dance** and **Dancing the Parenting** learning how to play these four public art pieces like musical instruments. With the support of the Vancouver Parks Board and Neighbourhood Matching Fund these explorations will culminate in public, outdoor performances to take place over four Sundays on September 12th, 19th, 26th and October 3rd.

Reflecting on Brown's newest project Vancouver New Music Artistic Director Giorgio Magnanensi notes "Ben really strives for deeper levels of interactivity and engagement. With *Sound Sculptures* he fosters conversation and reciprocal connections with the work, the

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gestures, the people, the resonating sculptures and the variety of discovered and animated sounds.”

With *Sound Sculptures*, Brown aims to build an ongoing relationship with the city to rejuvenate interest in our public art, and to encourage us to reimagine Vancouver as a more interactive and sound rich city.

To find out more about the project visit <http://benbrownsounds.com/soundsculptures/> and follow Ben on Instagram @benbrownsounds

#vansoundsculptures

** These outdoor events will take place according to Public Health guidelines and restrictions and may be subject to change.*

ABOUT BEN BROWN

I am a mover and shaker. As a drummer, I have received a Juno Award with my group, Pugs and Crows. I am the founder of Music And Movement Mondays (MAMM) and the Conundrum Performance Series.

Currently, I'm exploring principles of sound felt in the body and researching a series of designed percussion instruments crafted by Roxanne Nesbitt. With these, I am trying to push the boundaries of drumming by using movement to communicate the energy of sound—helping an audience hear differently by creating and breaking expectations for a sound through gesture.

As a Drummer, I am a member of the Pugs and Crows, Cast, Malleus Trio and father/son duo Zen Dogs. In April 2013 I received a Juno Award for Best Instrumental Album of the year with the group [Pugs and Crows](#).

I regularly collaborate with Dancers and Choreographers and have worked with [Katie Duck](#), [Justine A. Chambers](#), [Deanna Peters](#).

I am the Director and founder of [Music And Movement Mondays \(MAMM\)](#), an improvisational series for live musicians and dancers as well as [Conundrum](#) a performance series showcasing drummers in Vancouver, BC.

As a composer I have created scores for both Dance and Film, including commissioned works for [Manuela Tessi](#), [Areli Moran](#), [Jamee Valin](#) and [The Western Front](#) with U.K's [Szuper Gallery](#). These compositions have been featured at festivals in Vancouver, Amsterdam, Toronto and Mexico.

ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

Supporting creativity, innovation, curiosity and a multiplicity of voices and ideas, Vancouver New Music is committed to curating practices, not only works, and embracing the rhizomatic expansion of current modes of sound and music creation. Founded in 1973, Vancouver New Music regularly commissions and premieres new works by Canadian and international composers, presents an annual festival that focuses each year on a theme within the new music landscape and explores the interaction of contemporary music with other disciplines such as theatre, installation, and media arts. Other activities include lectures and workshops with visiting artists, ensemble workshops and presentations open to the community, and other sound-, art-, and new-music related community events, such as Soundwalks.

An annual/biannual series, Parallels, brings internationally renowned artists together with local musicians to create new works that are specific to the time, places, and people involved in their creation. <https://newmusic.org>

MEDIA CONTACT

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