



Apeiron

by Leona Jones

Friday 23rd October 2026, 1pm

Station House Media Unit, Aberdeen

Commissioned, developed and produced by SWR public radio broadcaster, Germany

Credits:

Leona Jones: composer, director, field recordings, tam-tam

Audrey Chen: extended technique vocals

22 Volunteers, Stromness: reading voices

Frank Halbig: SWR producer

Daniel Senger & Robin Zwirner: SWR sound engineers

Programme notes

*'The origin of all things is the Boundless.'
(Anaximander of Miletus, 610 - 546 BCE, fragment)*

A sonic performance, simultaneously a live radio broadcast and a group listening event, blurring boundaries between abstract radio play without words, sonic art and experimental music

Current holder of the international Karl Sczuka Prize 2025 for experimental radio art commissioned by German public service broadcaster SWR

apeiron's genesis was in Stromness, Orkney, Scotland where rhythms depend on shapeshifting tides and weathers, where legends are inscribed deep in dialect,

where sea-going vessels throb and creak, and where oceans, winds and lands ripple as at the cosmos' edge. In his contemplations of the nature of the world, Ancient Greek philosopher Anaximander named the ceaseless process of retreat and becoming 'apeiron'.

Artists throughout history have tried to capture the majesty of Ocean in words, images, music. This soundscape is composed of elemental sounds, timbres interlocking to form abstract environments portraying power – relentless power. It pays homage to the deep links and emotional responses we all have and feel to Ocean as it continually swells, surges, ebbs – demonstrating the immensity of life and reminding us we are born into movement and subject to constant change. Ocean lives in myth too, as sea beings and god/desses are rooted deep in imaginations throughout the world and through ages: Sirens, Nix, Leukothea, Poseidon, Kraken, Selkies, too many more to list.

Active listening to Ocean and its environments is active living. Listening is influenced by cultural training, is an active engagement with our environment, and is creative. It's political, never neutral, and produces meaning. It's about gaining knowledge and widening out to the more-than-known - and powers imagination.

Audio recordings of Orcadian sea-moods were made as a way of entering these thoughts. Residents and visitors to Stromness were offered the chance to be recorded reading aloud tide-times for the town. Twenty-two volunteer voices came forward and all play a part in ***apeiron***.

This new and unique presentation of the work as simultaneous live broadcast and group listening event reminds radio is both individual and collective listening. By being here, you are part of a distinctive development of ***apeiron***, a new perspective taken specifically for **soundfestival 2026**.

Biography

Dancing in silver-grey spaces between This and That, international award-winning artist **Leona Jones** explores the hardly heard and underseen, the conscious and not-so-conscious to create installations and events/performances centred around Language, Voice, Sound, Spatiality and Improvisation.

Using location recordings, site-responsiveness and improvisation, as well as text, she actively seeks to highlight physicality and context. Cross-disciplinary collaboration is central to her practice. Her work makes a concerted effort to

reach into an audience's imagination by promoting the art of Listening. She believes active listening to be vital to any society and through her practice challenges the current dominant visual bias of culture by using Listening as the cue whilst acknowledging we are multi-sensory. Her commitment to the inclusivity of the arts means she continually seeks to question definitions and boundaries laid down through repetition and assumption.

Leona is the current holder of the main Karl Sczuka Prize in this Germany-based international and highly respected competition for soundart, after being awarded the Grant prize in the competition in 2023. Her work has been hosted by galleries, but it's just as likely to be unexpectedly discovered responding to places and spaces not usually associated with the arts. It's been presented/performed internationally and across the UK.

None of Leona's work is currently knowingly created using AI. She believes that at present, despite the good work being undertaken in some quarters, this technology is biased and its use is not transparent. Human-to-human connection is central to creativity and all tools, including highly sophisticated ones, must not diminish this. Also, concernedly and usually unacknowledged, AI requires vast and increasing amounts of energy and fresh water at a time when use of these should be being conserved and shared equally around the planet.

Leona has been financially supported by Wales Arts International, Arts Council England and Arts Council Wales, as well as a variety of individual organisations. She gained her MA (Distinction) in Performance Writing from Dartington/Falmouth University. She is based in Aberteifi, West Wales.

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sound is a new music incubator based in north-east Scotland encouraging new music creation and discovery. We run the annual **soundfestival**, as well as year-round activity supporting a wide range of composers, engaging with local communities and providing educational opportunities

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