Recomposing the Past: The Challenges of Rebuilding Lost Performance Spaces

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Some brief caveats...

My project doesn’t actually start until next week...

...I got my funding just following getting my first permanent post...

...and I’ve never really considered what I do to be ‘design research’...
But...

... I certainly can talk about the trials and tribulations of preparing a grant proposal ...

... and the project is, in many ways, design research
Space, Place, Sound and Memory: Immersive Experiences of the Past

A quick introduction to the project
Performance as experience...
But this experience is lost to history the moment it happens.
Historically informed performance... 

...may capture a sense of the sound of the past... 

...but stops short of giving a sense of presence or participation
A performance of a fifteenth-century Mass Cycle...

...would have depended on certain acoustic properties... And it would have been a multimedia event, linking sound and image...
Perhaps we can capture the sound...

...but can we capture the experience?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The challenges of using original locations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Often geographically isolated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sometimes challenging performance spaces</td>
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<td>Often offer poor accessibility for those with mobility issues</td>
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<td>Often changed over time</td>
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<td>Sometimes no-longer extant</td>
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How do we bridge the gap between the present and the past?

Immersive technologies
The Project Team
So, what are we actually doing...?
St Cecilia’s Hall
Linlithgow Palace
The Challenges

- Timescales
- Stakeholder management
- IP
- Thinking ahead in terms of budget forecasting
Timescales

- Getting everyone on board
- Getting letters of support etc.
- Getting new-hires in place
- Buying equipment
- Conference proposals etc.
Stakeholder management

- Managing expectations
- Making sure that everyone is fully aware of costs and benefits
- Keeping everyone feeling that they are getting something worthwhile
• Dealing with issues of IP and external organisations

• Managing the requirements for open access and the requirements for marketability
• Having a good idea of what equipment needs buying
• Knowing what we already have
• Knowing what might be required by staff you are yet to hire
• Knowing what conferences you may need to attend
Any advice?

1. Don’t be afraid to target calls that you might not normally have considered
2. Exploit priority areas where you can
3. Adapt your project to fit the call