

PRESS RELEASE

**Sarah Strang | Dixon Clark Court Symphony**

**By Union Chapel Artist in Residence Sarah Strang  
Live Performance Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 7pm  
Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London N1 2XD**

Union Chapel is delighted to announce the premier of the Dixon Clark Court Symphony, a sound installation created by Artist in Residence, Sarah Strang, in collaboration with over fifty local residents at Dixon Clark Court in Islington, questioning in acoustic form, connections in communities between belonging and loneliness.

The Dixon Clark Court Symphony comprises over a hundred and sixty-five sounds identified, collected and curated from the neighbouring Islington towers of Dixon Clark Court, a mixed use tower block and Union Chapel, a working Congregational church, in response to the following questions raised by the artist:

What sounds make you feel like you belong?  
What sounds make you feel lonely?  
What sounds do you want to hear?

Over a hundred fifty responses in total were collected from residents at Dixon Clark Court and church members, staff and visitors to Union Chapel. The Dixon Clark Court Symphony presents a recorded acoustic soundscape arranged by Sarah Strang, composed by Nathaniel Robin Mann and Daniel Merrill with live performance by the London Contemporary Orchestra. Hidden within the organ pipes and the octagonal roof of Union Chapel, percussion features classical instruments and found objects including a steel door and a broken wooden cot. Violins and flutes bring into being, gentle and discordant moments, inviting the viewer to listen and wander between the sounds of life, memory and imagination.

Becky is connected to the lift opening and her door unlocking to reveal the thudding sound of the washing machine. Aziz feels alone and despair in his flat waking at night listening to the water pump next to his bedroom. Sue is welcomed in the morning by pigeons and the organ being tuned. Emma has an attachment to the entry buzzer, a sound, like police and ambulance sirens that provokes an ambivalent response. Children in the playground next to Dixon Clark Court and Union Chapel inspires familiarity and yet sadness at the loss of familial connections. The Dixon Clark Court Symphony seeks to articulate in sound, how individuals or communities may be disconnected or connected to loneliness or belonging. Research into the breakdown of social cohesion remains a current political concern, solutions are seemingly elusive and answers are as invisible as the air that transports signals of sound. The audience is seated centrally in the auditorium of Union Chapel to listen to the performative mix of recorded soundscape and live orchestral score.

Enhancing the sound of the opening of a rubbish chute by drumming the fall of rubbish and creating a melody in strings to accentuate the squeal and scream of children at play, articulates a poetic presence in Dixon Clark Court and Union Chapel, two prominent buildings that tower the Islington community. A narrative appears which is undulating, diffused and constantly shifting in states of time and being, where the notion of community which seems mercurial yet utopian is questioned within the Dixon Clark Court Symphony. Everyday life is invested with mystery and meaning.

Supported by Union Chapel, Patrons of Union Chapel, Artist in Residence, Congregational Federation and Heritage Lottery Fund  
Charitable Partner, Islington Giving

Sarah Strang | Dixon Clark Court Symphony  
Exhibition dates: 14<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
Live performance: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012  
Address: Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London N1 2XD  
Opening Times: Friday to Sunday 2pm – 7pm  
Nearest tube: Highbury and Islington  
Websites: [www.unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk), [www.sarahstrang.com](http://www.sarahstrang.com)  
For press information and images please contact:  
[info@sarahstrang.com](mailto:info@sarahstrang.com) , Tel +44 (0)7525 271 337