Entoptic phenomena are experienced by all human beings. If you cover your eyes and shut out all light, for example by putting your hands over your closed eyes, you will see flashing lights and moving shapes. What you are seeing is the structure of your optic nerve. These are entoptic phenomena: a neurobiological experience. Such phenomena have been hypothesised to have informed the earliest artworks. Their commonness to all people causes these artworks to remain intelligible today. This music takes such phenomena as a starting point. It is slow moving, partially entering into ‘view’ and then gone again. The attempt to focus has the effect of obscuring it.
entoptic landscape, in its first and second versions, was commissioned by Octopus Collective in Barrow in Furness, for the 2013 full of noises festival and their 2014 residency at Cafe OTO. Much of the initial work for the piece was undertaken in January, February and March 2013 whilst I was an artist in residence at Octopus Collective.

http://www.octopuscumulative.org

http://fonfestival.org

Photograph © Benedict Phillips 2013
entoptic landscape: version 1
trombone, four tubas, organ
live at full of noises festival, 27.07.2013

trombone - Sarah Gail Brand
tuba 1 - Stuart Estell (ORE)
tuba 2 - Sam Underwood (ORE)
tuba 3 - Taneli Clarke
tuba 4 - Alison Griffiths
organ - Lauren Redhead

recordings made by Lauren Redhead, Alistair Zaldua and Octopus Collective
entoptic landscape: version 2
trombone, two tubas, fixed media
live at cafe OTO, 31.01.2014

trombone - Sarah Gail Brand
Tuba 1 - Stuart Estell (ORE)
Tuba 2 - Sam Underwood (ORE)
fixed media - Lauren Redhead

recordings made by Lauren Redhead,
and Octopus Collective
entoptic landscape: version 3
organ and fixed media
live mix from the University of Sussex, 03.04.2014 and Salford Sonic Fusion Festival, 05.04.2014
part of a tour for organ and electronics, co-produced by Sound and Music

organ - Lauren Redhead
fixed media - Lauren Redhead

recordings made by Lauren Redhead, Alistair Zaldua, and Huw Morgan and Olivia Flint/University of Sussex
entoptic landscape: version 4
voice and fixed media
organ - Lauren Redhead
fixed media - Lauren Redhead
recordings made by Lauren Redhead
All of the performances of this music respond in some way to open notation. The first version of this piece presented the performers with a variety of stimuli from precisely notated pitches, to graphemes, to text, to graphic notation derived from cave art. The second version extended this approach to prefer graphic notation. The third version notated pitch more precisely in the organ part, with some openness in time. The fourth version drew from the original text included in the first score. As such, no two performances of this music are alike, but all hold much in common. Open notation has been employed not for reasons of accessibility but as a means of inviting the performers into the specific soundworld of the piece.
Music composed and produced by Lauren Redhead

Lauren Redhead  http://laurenredhead.eu
Sarah Gail Brand  http://www.gailbrand.com
Stuart Estell  http://stuartestell.co.uk
Sam Underwood  http://www.mrunderwood.co.uk
ORE  http://www.oretubadoom.com
Taneli Clarke  http://www.taneli.co.uk
Sound and Music  http://www.soundandmusic.org
Alistair Zaldua  http://www.alistair-zaldua.de
Huw Morgan  http://www.huwmorgantheorgan.co.uk
University of Sussex Music  http://www.sussex.ac.uk/music/
Salford Sonic Fusion Festival  http://www.salford.ac.uk/arts-media/about/events/salford-sonic-fusion-festival

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