

Sounding Out! Podcast #13: Sounding Shakespeare in S(e)oul

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Abstract

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Keywords

Music (Subfield), Digital Humanities, Identity, Literature, Live Music, Music

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Listen. I'm hearing Shakespeare. Taking four of Shakespeare's tragedies (*Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*), I hear Shakespeare in and around another anachronistic soundscape – the blues. The space of this sonic experience will be YOGIGA Expression Gallery, a performance space in Hongdae, a popular art and club scene in Seoul, Korea, on January 26, 2013, in their [\[?/?/?/?\]](#): [\[?/?\]](#) / [\[?/?\]](#) [\[?/?/?\]](#), or *Starfish: Experimental/Improvisational Performances*. The performers will include: Carys Matic on percussion, [\[?/?\]](#) (Hwang Seo Young), reading, and myself on the alto sax. Melding the blues and Shakespeare, this project involves my writing short, page-length poems in contemporary English that contain a line from a Shakespeare play, as well as the play's main ideas. Part of my task is bedding the Shakespeare passage in an English that is lyrical, but untimely, in part so as to re-produce the strangeness of the Bard. These lines are then laid across a bit of percussion built out of the playing of Shakespeare's books – literally. The rhythmic foundation is thus established upon a thing that didn't exist properly in Shakespeare's time, yet is so central to Shakespeare today. And finally, I use an alto saxophone and blues scales to improvise a bit of blues along with the percussion and the reading. In short, I'm queering Shakespeare by placing him in a blues bed, punctuated by the pounding of books, and dressed up in a Korean, female voice.

<https://soundstudiesblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/sounding-shakespeare.mp3>

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