

WAKKEN

A sound installation by contemporary classical composer **Ailís Ní Ráin**

Contemporary Heritage: A new way of seeing

18 June 2011 – 9 April 2012

Clitheroe Castle Museum





TAKEN

TAKEN forms part of **Contemporary Heritage**, an ambitious programme of contemporary art commissions inspired by Lancashire's cultural heritage. The installation in Clitheroe Castle Keep is the second commission in the programme which is taking place at historic sites across Lancashire.

TAKEN is created by contemporary classical composer Ailís Ní Ríain whose sound installations provoke and engage the audience. Ailís is passionately interested in creating public sound art and opera, and presenting contemporary music in diverse spaces.

TAKEN is a unique sound installation in the Castle Keep which is inspired by the story of the Lancashire Witches and how the 12 accused individuals might have felt during their final four months in captivity awaiting trial. In 2012 Lancashire will reflect on the 400th anniversary of the Lancashire witch trials.

“Beautiful and moving – I felt on the periphery of someone’s subconscious. Everything was complimentary with a certain darkness”



Ailís spent time with 12 women and men from Lancashire and recorded each person humming a song which was personal and poignant to them. The recordings were then interwoven with an acoustic harp into the composition.

Ailís says **“It was an honour to sit with each ‘hummer’ and witness them hum for me a tune which means a great deal to them. It was an intense experience for them and I think they were very brave and generous. The Keep is a remarkable building and Taken allows visitors to imagine what it must have been like for the accused, taken from their**

homes and kept in such a small space, uncertain of their fate.”

The hummers' voices fill every corner of the Castle Keep punctuated by the poignant and evocative timbre of the harp. Immerse yourself in sound and thought as the Keep is brought to life through music.

Ailís is an award winning composer whose music has been performed all over Europe and in the USA. Recent work has been commissioned by MetalCulture for the Liverpool Biennial, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Cornerhouse and the AND festival.



Contemporary Heritage is an ambitious contemporary art programme created for historic sites across Lancashire. The installations animate each site and offer visitors a rare chance to experience major works of art by artists of national and international standing outside a city environment.

TAKEN is commissioned by Mid Pennine Arts in collaboration with Lancashire County Council. Clitheroe Castle and Museum is owned by Ribble Valley Borough Council and the Museum is managed by Lancashire County Council.

Further Contemporary Heritage commissions: Not Forgotten by Geraldine Pilgrim at Towneley Hall and Park is open

until 11 Sept 2011. Helmshore Mills Textile Museum launches in spring 2012, Gawthorpe Hall and Turton Tower launch in spring 2013.

Experience **TAKEN** with your family and friends, take in the stunning views across Clitheroe to Pendle Hill and visit Clitheroe Castle Museum.

**Clitheroe Castle Museum,
Lancashire, BB7 1BA**
**Free admission to the installation in the
Castle Keep**
TAKEN is open daily 10am – 5pm

www.midpenninearts.org.uk
www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums



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