

THE SOCIAL TONIC



All things for
all people in
God's Own
County; art,
music, food,
interviews,
new releases,
culture in
your face

APRIL
2018

CONTENTS |



April 2018

Live Gig
Review

Bloomfield
Square

The Focus
Group

MAP Charity

What's On
Yorkshire?

Photo credit Jake Harding

Review: SUBMOTION ORCHESTRA @ CANAL MILLS

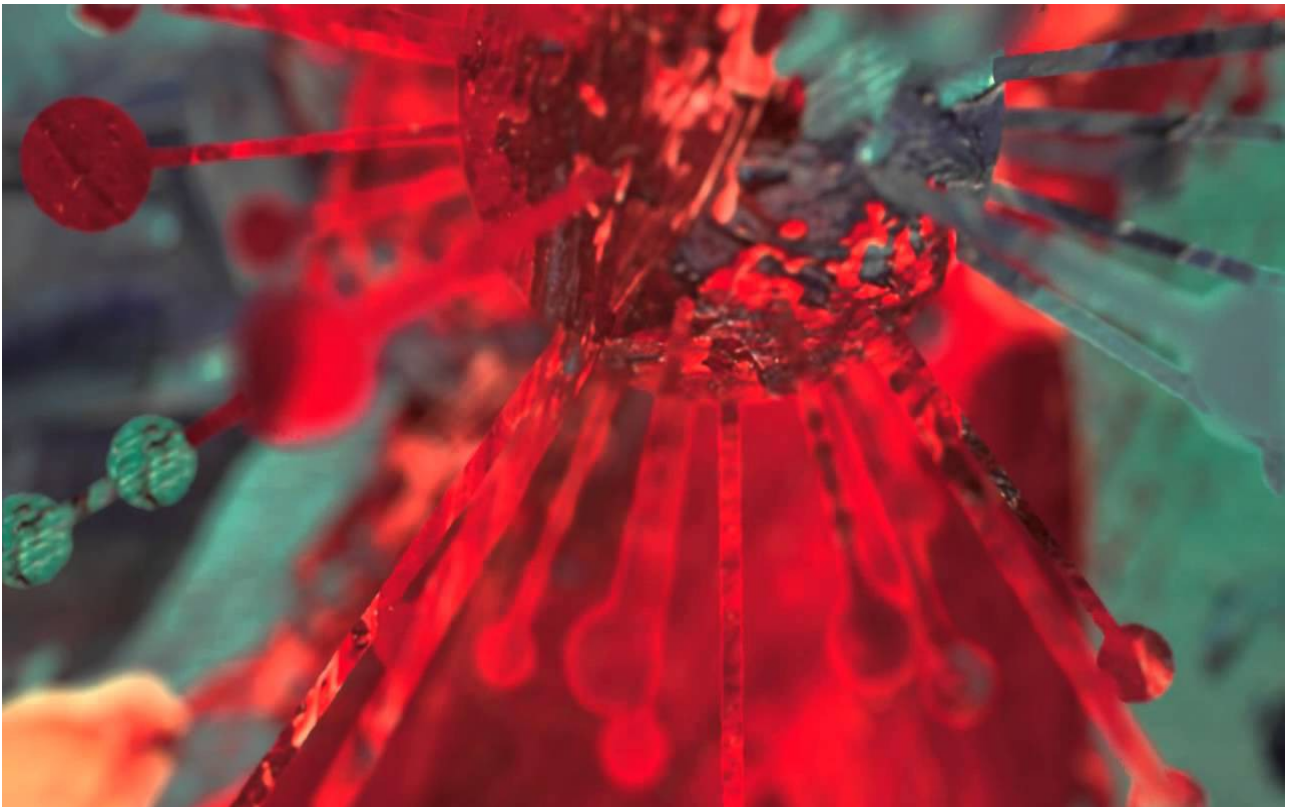
by Jake Harding

Canal Mills isn't a frequented venue of mine. There's absolutely nothing objectively or holistically wrong with it; despite its exposed brickwork and nautically industrial vibes, which are aesthetics I adore, it just hasn't been much of a subject of my habituation. That being said, it's a versatile venue and many would unwaveringly, without hesitation consider it ideal for Submotion Orchestra's return to their point of musical origin.

I arrive at the venue fairly early with two friends. The crowd is widely-dispersed but plentiful. Three cans of Five Points Pale are first priority. We acquire these without hitch and, in perfect time, the second support act beings to play. I am enthralled.

The most honourable of mentions for three-piece jazz outfit, Vel's Trio. The vibe, I can only describe as a marriage of Yussef Kamaal's expressively-swung snares and jittery, jungle-esque hi-hat action with Snarky Puppy's huge Rhodes/Hammond organ chord extensions. Perhaps not a marriage; more of a lovechild, as this particular fusion has evolved of its own volition, grown up, moved out, and gone on to make its parents proud. Check out the silky bass ostinato and singingly triangular synth on 'Yellow Ochre Pt. II'. It's fucking gold.

Cue the night's nucleus, *Submotion Orchestra*. An incomplete SubMo embark upon an understated stage-set replete with smoke and radiant with purple and green hues. Minus 1x vocalist, the band launch into new, almost entirely instrumental track, 'Tunnel'. I've been waiting to see this band since they first began influencing my musical taste and am almost anxious with excitement.





The usually delicate horns are bright and dynamic and the drums are characterised by erratic drive rather than jazzy groove. The mood one of turmoil, urgency and aggression and further depth is derived from Arabian-redolent Phrygian scales and teasingly ominous bass-swells. This rawness is espoused with new synth sounds featuring percussive attacks, more rounded sustains and opening releases washed with resonance. My focus was drawn to bit-crushed-sounding cowbells and the clever layering of minimally smooth bass LFOs and vocals spinning a thickening web of Phrygian accompaniment. SubMo's sound has been a subtly evolving one over time, demonstrating what seems to be an organic trajectory. Instrumentation and arrangement has always been homegrown, unique and synonymous with *only* SubMo as a band. The tweaked new sound for 'Kites' is no exception and feels like a natural next step in SubMo's musical evolution.

Enter Ruby wood, dressed in a bright yet warm yellow; one strangely representative of her ethereal and intimate vocals. 'Tunnel' is followed by the latest release's second tune. A single bar of a minimal piano riff was enough to incite an internal declaration that this track would be my favourite of the new offering. My declaration was well-founded, as 'Variations' remains my favourite tune from a very solid album. The rendition returns to familiar masterfully muted horn sections and something of a neo-noir ambience. Edging bass-lines appear to peek out from the mix. Every single note is considerately placed to create encompassing and immersive movements of music.

This small cross section I've provided of a wonderfully affecting instance of live music is representative of the rest of the set, which is largely new material, sparsely punctuated by older seminal tunes such as 'Finest Hour'. I contemplate what I've just experienced; it feels like watching myself in third-person. I'm reeling from musical stimulation, though despite preoccupation, I can easily quantify my thoughts on the evening. Both 'Kites' and SubMo's live set have reawakened, rekindled and reinvigorated in me an intense love for the sound of Submotion Orchestra.

GRAB SOME SCRAN BLOOMFIELD SQUARE

By Alex Thompson

We're spoilt for choice when it comes to coffee in Leeds. Layne's, Atha's & La Bottega are probably the top three spots when discussing where to get a good cup of Joe in our fair city. Whilst I enjoy all of the above my favourite coffee spot isn't actually in Leeds at all, it's in Otley. As a cyclist breaking up a ride with coffee and cake isn't just a perk of the hobby it's sometimes a life or death situation. Otley is a perfect cycle destination with its stunning views of the Yorkshire countryside and its quaint small town eccentricities and Bloomfield square is, in my opinion, the perfect coffee shop.



Bloomfield Square is the brainchild of Tony Wright (of Terrorvision fame) and his partner Emma Thorpe. It's fast become one of the busiest and best coffee spots in Otley since opening late last year, and for good reason. The shop is dressed to the nines; open fires, vintage tables and beautiful art and prints on every wall from local artists. The place is also EXTREMELY dog friendly, I don't think I've ever been and not seen a friendly little pooch curled up under a table. They even serve teeny dog biscuits with every drink. Pure heaven.

Their coffee is supplied by local coffee roasters North Star and is always a good indicator of what to expect from the coffee in your cup, which is always fantastic. My coffee tippie of choice is always a long black, although lesser coffee haunts mistake this for an Americano at Bloomfield it's always short, strong and the perfect temperature.

The café also serves a selection cakes (with one always being vegan), sandwiches and soup. I've yet to sample the food extensively (trying one sandwich in my pre vegan days) but it always looks rustic and home-made and with the amount that comes out of the kitchen it's got to be fantastic.

Although outside of Leeds, Bloomfield Square is well worth the visit. Otley is a beautiful town with tonnes of awesome pubs and some absolutely mind blowing walks. It's good to get out of the city from time to time and if you're planning a trip as the weather (apparently) gets better, I can't think of better place to grab a coffee than Bloomfield.



The Focus Group



RUFUS JESSE

I only moved to Leeds a year and half ago as I fell in love with the place whilst visiting friends. I DJ, produce and have a good grasp of multiple instruments. I also work in a nightclub on the bar, but more recently find myself learning a lot more about the technology involved. I am learning how to program the lights as well as parts of live sound engineering.

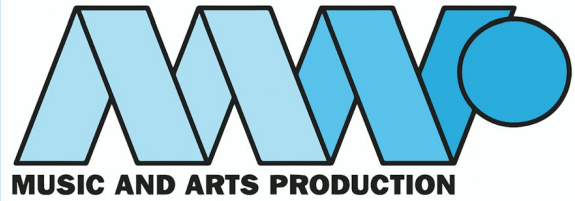
As long as I can remember my family (particularly my mother and father) have been massive collectors and lovers of music in all forms. Sometimes I find music now that evokes deep memories for me of childhood, even if I never specifically remember hearing it before. As I've grown older, the finding of new music has become almost obsession. The natural step following was to start recreating the sounds/emotions I've grown up with in my own music.

Art in all forms is the one way we as humans can express unabashedly (one would hope) our innermost emotions and thoughts. In everyday life our chance to express ourselves as individuals is heavily restricted. Throughout history art has repeatedly been a tool for us to reflect on our lives, where we've been and where we're heading (and whether we like it or not). It can communicate ideas where language falls short. The best part of it is the meaning and the method is totally up to you. I chose to indulge in music as it's where I'm most competent and at home, but I like to have a firm understanding of art in as many forms as possible. Greater comprehension of one form leads to greater comprehension of the next. I feel like I have a lot to say as well as learn, but words fail me where music elevates me.

If I was to say my favourite band of all time I would probably have to say The Doors. I went through a period of mad obsession with the band when I'd just turned 18 to the point which my friends actually conducted a sort of intervention. My favourite song is "When The Music's Over", go watch the live version at the Hollywood Bowl 1968 and you'll see what I mean. It was a return to that love affair I had that led me to sample them for my latest song "We Want The World".

Although I have only a very recent knowledge of the area in and around Leeds, I don't think anything can beat a walk around Ilkley Moor, simply gorgeous.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH



“All young people have the right to access a meaningful education, regardless of background.

MAP offers qualifications in Music, Art, Maths and English to young people at risk of exclusion from the mainstream education system.

We believe in the transformative social impact of music and art within society, promoting communication between a diversity of cultures, communities and age groups.

Through offering spaces for local creative businesses, they, in return, help us by providing our students with support, inspiration, and the opportunity to apply the skills they’re taught within the education programmes. This helps them to understand the application and significance of those skills in the real-world: this is our creative ecosystem.

As well as providing support for young people where the traditional education system is failing, MAP is a hub for a diverse range of creative practices within the local community. <https://mapcharity.org/>



WHAT'S ON?

1 st April, Water Lane Boathouse	Pie and Ale Festival	https://www.facebook.com/events/1958164694193723/
5 th April, North Bar Leeds.	Lowlands Beer Festival: "De La Senne Tap Takeover"	https://www.facebook.com/events/1851955911768598/
8 th April, Magic Rock Tap	Magic Rock Vegan Food and Drink Fest 2018	https://www.facebook.com/events/186722145407252/
11 th April, Distrikt	Limit Free Party w/ Traumer (club)	https://www.facebook.com/events/2285027061724304/
12 th April, Chapel Leeds	The Larkins w/ Heir (live gig)	https://www.facebook.com/events/1771992803108392/
13 th April, Live Art Bistro	"We fly and we are made" (contemporary art, dance, discussion)	http://www.liveartleeds.com/single-post/2018/02/21/We-Fly-And-We-Are-Made-A-Roundtable-Discussion
13 th April, BasementArtsProject, Beeston	Sharon Mossbeck: Forgotten Spaces exhibition	https://www.facebook.com/events/201162410656859/
14 th April, Church Leeds	WRATH FEST 2018 all-dayer (11 rock and metal bands, live gig)	https://www.facebook.com/events/1574975939205423/
14 th April, Yorkshire Sculpture Park	"Mindful Moments on Slow Art Day"	https://www.facebook.com/events/2078370595729399/
14 th April, Leeds Kirkgate Market	Leeds Record and Book Fair April	https://www.facebook.com/events/1646577728768408/

17 th April, Polar Bear Hull	The Sesh w/ Of Allies, Last of the Wonder Kids, Fallen Idols	https://www.facebook.com/events/157106838439700/
18 th April, Henry Moore Institute	“Couplets: The Dualities of Sculpture”	https://www.facebook.com/events/411202629331067/
20 th April, Canal Mills	Primal Sound 2 nd Birthday w/ Groove Armada	https://www.facebook.com/events/931493610360505/
21 st April, Doghouse Bar and Record Store	Record Store Day w/ Jonny Rock and Craig Christon	https://www.facebook.com/events/1908366726142093/
21 st April, Beaver Works	FLUX Day and Night Party (full line-up see fb)	https://www.facebook.com/events/204623093423771/
25 th April, Chapel Leeds	The Academic w/ Zuzu and Talkboy (live gig)	https://www.facebook.com/events/315588635625171/

