

AREN CLARK BRONZE ARTS AWARD

Sounds of Science Review

Before the event, we did not know what a surprise we were in for. A representation of the history of science through music? The idea seemed unusual, but we decided to give it a go. I was filled with interest and curiosity as I walked through the doors into the Corn Exchange.

The first half was a small lecture and presentation about ten significant moments in the history of science. For each, there was a prop to represent the significant moment in Christopher Lloyd's coat. Behind him was a long poster of all the 100 moments which shielded the instruments for the performance from view. This section lasted for around 50 minutes before the interval.



As we wandered back into the hall after a short break, the poster wall had been removed to reveal a huge and diverse set of instruments, some standard percussion instruments and others invented and created especially for the performance. Evelyn began playing at the beginning of time, and the first few of the 100 moments were performed on the floor, demonstrating the simplicity of so long ago. Throughout the performance, the instruments use became more complex but also in many cases, larger.

Some of the moments were very easy to recognise, for example the invention of the bicycle and Morse Code. Some, however, were a bit harder to get, so I found that looking at the list of the 100 in the book helped in order to keep track of what was happening in the performance. There was a great variety too; my favourite was a home-made instrument of hanging paper to represent Chinese paper-making in the 2nd century AD.



Overall, I really enjoyed the sounds of science as it was a step into the unknown, but a really good afternoon spent. I am surprised at how amazing it was, because who would of thought that science could be represented through music?