

SOUNDING THE ICE FACTORY

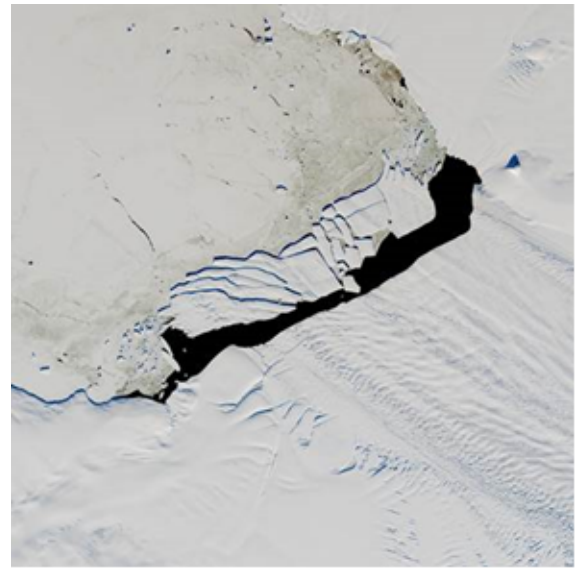


Impact Report

EMBracing the Ocean artist-in-residence project
April 2022 - April 2023

"I believe this music has the power to engage reason and emotion on the way to a better future. At the time of this writing, we can still make a difference"

-Lukrecia Stulic, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany



Co-design process:

Michael collaborated with [Lukrecia Stulic](#) (Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, AWI, Germany) and [Yoshihiro Nakayama](#) (Hokkaido University, Japan) to develop new musical compositions based on various climate and oceanographic data from the Antarctic, including thermocline data from the Pine Island Glacier, polynya (openings in sea ice cover) modelling and salt fluxes. 'Sounding the ice factory' addresses the formation and purpose of coastal polynya and the role of the thermocline in relation to the health of ice shelves. The work reveals a complex relationship between environmental and climatic elements, and reveal a fragile, restless sound portrait of a region approaching a critical tipping point, with consequences for the whole planet. Additional compositions were developed in collaboration with EMBracing the Ocean artist Lera Litvinova to create a sound portrait of the impact of war on the fragile ecosystem of the Black Sea using publicly available data, such as from the European Space Agency's Sentinel 3 Ocean monitoring satellites, and audit records of ships passing through the secure trade corridor.

Project outputs:

- The "[Sounding the ice factory](#)" recordings released as an album on 17th April 2023 on Bandcamp are available on a free/pay-what-you-can basis. The release is accompanied by descriptive text and commentary from the scientific collaborators.
- A preview of 'Sounding the ice factory' was performed by the [Black Glass Ensemble](#) group at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2022 as part of the Made in Scotland programme.
- The Black Sea compositions were broadcasted in a special edition '[Black Sea Music](#)' of the radio show 'A Duck In A Tree' on 17 December 2022 and were included in the 'Under the Surface' exhibition curated by Lera Litvinova at the Kyiv History Museum from 29 March - 16 April 2023.
- Michael was featured in the film '[Data-driven innovation for sustainable creative practice](#)' by Creative Informatics, which was presented at the New European Bauhaus Festival in Brussels on 9th June 2022.
- An [interview](#) with Michael was published in the online music magazine 'Fifteen Questions' in which Michael discusses his residency work.
- An [EMB Blog article](#) featuring an interview with Lera was written by EMB Young Ambassador Anjali Kopakumar.
- The [EMB science webinar](#) on 20th April 2023 featured Michael discussing his project.
- Guest lecture to Masters students in Environmental Management at the University of Edinburgh highlighting the EMBracing the Ocean residency and the importance of art-science collaborations.
- Interviewed in a [podcast](#) by the Young Academy of Scotland in an episode about Coastal Climate Change Art.
- Endorsement as an action under the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Water charter, and poster presentation at the first Mission Ocean Forum in Brussels on 17 February 2023.

Key impact:

- Estimated reach of 100 audience members at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival performance in August 2022.
- A [short video](#) of audience responses to the Black Glass Ensemble performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival was developed, reflecting its 'moving', 'climate aware' and 'spellbouding' nature.

Project longevity:

- A public relations campaign is planned for September 2023 to promote Michael's work aiming to raise its public profile, and will include his EMBracing the Ocean outputs.
- The "Sounding the ice factory" recordings will be made available across all major music streaming services and will be released on CD in the UK.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

3 EVENTS

Including one live performance, inclusion of the recordings at an exhibition and a guest lecture

720 AUDIENCE MEMBERS & VISITORS

Estimated at the three events

631 RADIO SHOW DOWNLOADS

Of Black Sea Music

563 PAGE VISITS

To project webpage on EMB website

22 TWEETS

From the EMB twitter account and other accounts

18 INSTAGRAM POSTS

From the EMB and other instagram accounts

6 ONLINE ARTICLES

By EMB and others highlighting the project

1 ALBUM RELEASE

Available for free/pay-what-you-can

1 PODCAST

Discussing the project

