# Scottish and Ukrainian artists explore the urgent politics of sound at Glasgow’s Sonic Interventions festival



The forthcoming festival, Sonic Interventions, brings together artists from Scotland and Ukraine to explore the intricate relationship between sound and human experience. Set to take place from June 11 to 16 across various venues in Glasgow, the festival will showcase a blend of world premieres, installations, and interactive performances, underscoring the transformative power of sound in our lives.

One of the notable performances will feature Genevieve Murphy from Scotland and Alice Haspyd from Ukraine, who will present a duo performance on June 11 at Civic House. This event exemplifies the collaborative spirit that birthed Sonic Interventions, emerging from conversations between organisers Olha Bekenshtein and Martel, who met during a networking session following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Bekenshtein remarked, “We saw this grant opportunity from the British consul… that’s how Sonic Interventions was born,” highlighting the initiative’s roots in both art and urgent socio-political contexts.

The festival, aptly named, aims to delve into how sound shapes and disrupts our everyday environments, particularly in the shadow of ongoing conflict. Bekenshtein notes that the theme will focus on sound that is often beyond our control yet compels us to react. For instance, she discussed the ominous sounds associated with war, stating that “the sound of air raid sirens tells you something dangerous is coming.” Through sound, the festival will serve as a platform for reflection on how cultural experiences shift meanings—sounds like drones, which now evoke memories of danger rather than leisure.

One unique installation will be an audio-guided walk created by Ukrainian composer Anna Khvyl in collaboration with dramaturg Piotr Armianovski. Unlike typical sound walks, which tie narratives closely to physical locations, this initiative will connect participants globally through a series of online radio stations, fostering a sense of shared experience despite geographical boundaries. Bekenshtein describes it as a “sonic walk for nomads” where listeners need only headphones to join, thereby allowing diverse contributions from across the world.

In tandem with audio installations, the festival will include talks and engagement programmes addressing the political, social, and emotional weight of sound. Among the highlighted artists, Alla Zahaikevych will make her UK debut at the Glasgow Women’s Library, presenting a solo performance that centres on field recordings from significant landmarks in Kyiv. This not only emphasises Zahaikevych's cultural heritage but also aims to forge deeper connections with audiences in Scotland.

Amid the backdrop of an ongoing war, Bekenshtein asserts the importance of such cultural exchanges in reinforcing solidarity between Scotland and Ukraine. “Even though this war is not local… it affects everyone,” she stated, underscoring the global reach of conflict and the collective responsibility to share and understand the diverse experiences shaped by it. The festival aspires to broaden perspectives on Ukrainian artistry, aiming to present cultural narratives beyond the immediate crisis, thereby enriching shared human experience.

As Sonic Interventions gears up, it presents an opportunity not just for artistic exploration but also for audiences to engage with the subtle yet profound influences of sound on our lives, encouraging a collective reflection on cultural resilience amidst adversity.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.visitscotland.com/info/events/time-based-sonic-interventions-p3346161)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/synonym-session-sonic-interventions-tickets-1321191733039)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.glasgowwestend.co.uk/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-surge-festival/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24350734.glasgow-audio-visual-art-festival-sonica-announces-full-line-up/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.creativescotland.com/news-stories/latest-news/archive/2024/05/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-festival-2024-which-will-run-at-venues-across-glasgow-from-the-imax-big-screen-to-govanhill-baths-19-to-29-september)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss), [[7]](https://www.cryptic.org.uk/whatson/sonica-presents-shape-with-construction-festival/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25216721.ukrainian-scottish-artists-team-glasgow-festival/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/synonym-session-sonic-interventions-tickets-1321191733039> - This Eventbrite page details the 'synonym' session: SONIC INTERVENTIONS, a collaborative event between Gallery Bagging and Arts & Parts at the David Dale Gallery in Glasgow on 13 June 2025. The session focuses on the collaboration between Photinus Studios and Scottish composer and sound artist Zoë Irvine, offering a facilitated group writing experience. The event is part of the Time Based: Sonic Interventions festival, which features experimental music, sound art, and cross-cultural collaborations between Ukrainian and Scottish artists. ([eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/synonym-session-sonic-interventions-tickets-1321191733039?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/events/time-based-sonic-interventions-p3346161> - This VisitScotland page provides information about Time Based: Sonic Interventions, a festival of experimental music and sound art by Ukrainian and UK artists exploring the sounds that shape and disrupt our world. The festival runs from 11 to 16 June 2025 at various venues across Glasgow, including Civic House, and features performances, installations, and talks. ([visitscotland.com](https://www.visitscotland.com/info/events/time-based-sonic-interventions-p3346191?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.glasgowwestend.co.uk/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-surge-festival/> - This article announces the full programme for the Sonica Surge Festival, a two-day event showcasing artists from Scotland alongside Ukraine, Sweden, Nigeria, Italy, and more. Highlights include new works by composer and multimedia artist Sonia Killman, artist-composers Lucy Duncombe & Feronia Wennborg, and the audio-visual duo muto major. The festival is part of Cryptic's 30th anniversary celebrations and features performances, installations, and workshops. ([glasgowwestend.co.uk](https://www.glasgowwestend.co.uk/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-surge-festival/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24350734.glasgow-audio-visual-art-festival-sonica-announces-full-line-up/> - This article reports on the full line-up announcement for the Sonica Festival, a biannual audio-visual festival celebrating its 30th anniversary. The festival features live performances, art installations, immersive tours, workshops, and film screenings across various venues in Glasgow. International collaborations include artists from Egypt, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Canada. ([thenational.scot](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24350734.glasgow-audio-visual-art-festival-sonica-announces-full-line-up/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.creativescotland.com/news-stories/latest-news/archive/2024/05/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-festival-2024-which-will-run-at-venues-across-glasgow-from-the-imax-big-screen-to-govanhill-baths-19-to-29-september> - This Creative Scotland article announces the full programme for the Sonica Festival 2024, which will run at venues across Glasgow from 19 to 29 September. The festival includes free installations by international artists, such as the UK premiere of Celine Daemen’s virtual reality opera 'Songs for a Passerby' and the world premiere of Kseniia Shcherbakova's installation exploring interpersonal bonds amid the traumas of war. ([creativescotland.com](https://www.creativescotland.com/news-stories/latest-news/archive/2024/05/full-programme-announced-for-sonica-festival-2024-which-will-run-at-venues-across-glasgow-from-the-imax-big-screen-to-govanhill-baths-19-to-29-september?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.cryptic.org.uk/whatson/sonica-presents-shape-with-construction-festival/> - This page details the 'Sonica presents: SHAPE+ with Construction Festival' event at The Glad Cafe in Glasgow on 10 April 2025. The event features performances from SHAPE+ artists Dali Muru & The Polyphonic Swarm, Ukrainian sound artist Khrystyna Kirik, and Scottish-Portuguese sound artist SHHE. The event is a collaboration between Cryptic, Construction Festival, and Dnipro Center for Contemporary Culture. ([cryptic.org.uk](https://www.cryptic.org.uk/whatson/sonica-presents-shape-with-construction-festival/?utm_source=openai))