

## GLOBAL ELECTRONIC LIVE-CODING MUSIC MOVEMENT ALGORAVE SET TO MAKE OFFICIAL SXSW DEBUT IN MARCH

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – 22:00 pm  
LUSH PRESENTS: ALGORAVE LIVE-CODING PARTY  
Main II, Red River

### [GUARDIAN SHORT DOCUMENTARY ON ALGORAVE](#)

[Alexandra Cardenas](#) / [Scorpion Mouse](#) / [Belisha Beacon](#) / [hellocatfood](#) / [Algobabez](#) / [Byrke Lou](#) / [Coral](#) / [CO34PT](#) / [Renick Bell](#)



Austin TX, Wednesday February 20 - Algorave, the live coding music community will make its SXSW debut during this year's 2019 Festival in Austin, TX, with a landmark showcase celebrating the global music movement of electronic musicians and visual artists. The showcase is produced by British Underground and presented by Lush, the ethical cosmetics and technology brand and is part of the Arts Council England's Future Art & Culture program - for more information on the showcase and to add to schedule please visit: <https://www.sxsw.com/artist/lush-presents-algorave-live-coding-party/>

The ALGORAVE LIVE-CODING PARTY (3/12 @ Main II) will feature performances from artists including composer, computer programmer and live coder Alexandra Cardenas - a pioneer of live coding in electronic music and part of the forefront of the Algorave scene. This event will celebrate the new musical movement which combines hacker philosophy and clubbing into one of the most innovative and fun musical experiences that will available at SXSW this year.

Algorave musicians create improvised dance music in real time, manipulating algorithms using live coding and special self created software which is free and open source unlike traditional music production platforms used by musicians making electronic music. At your typical Algorave event, you will experience genre defying futuristic rhythms and beats made through a strange algorithm-aided processes. The source code will be projected on the walls and the audience will dance or listen.

Although the first "algorave" was held in London at SuperCollider Symposium in 2012, the origins of the movement can be traced back to the 1950s and Alan Turing's early examples of computer generated music through to the 1970s, with the algorithm technology innovation of artists including Brian Eno. Algorithms are a part of rave culture with artists like Autechre using algorithms to create non-repetitive beats that sidestepped the British Government

Public Order Act of 1994, which aimed to outlaw raves in Britain.

Capturing the imagination of media from The Guardian to Vice, Algorave is on the rise and there is no better platform for it to flourish than at SXSW Festival with its converging program of Interactive, Film and Music mirroring the integrated visual and technological innovations pioneered by Algoravers and their new musical phenomena.

Joanne Armitage a performer and spokesperson for ALGORAVE movement stated, *Algorave deals with algorithmic structures in a really visual, lived and performed manner. By working with code and ditching the graphical user interface, we take the banality of our computer innards and render it as audiovisual experiences. Through using and building open source systems, artists look to undermine and re-imagine the current economic climate around music making. We work determinedly for diversity in our scene and are keen to mentor and support people in participating. SXSW presents an exciting platform to share this work, meeting with artists, technologists and the generally-curious. Through this showcase and panel we hope to share the joy of perfect code and the trials of errors in code with SXSW participants.*

A workshop will also be hosted - DANCING TO ALGORITHMS: HOW TO ALGORAVE featuring ALGORAVE innovators: Alexandra Cardenas, Antonio Roberts, Joanne Armitage and Shelly Knotts

The panel will discuss Algorave: a global movement focussed on creating dance music through the writing and editing of algorithms.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – 15:30 pm

Westin Hotel, Rm Continental 3

DANCING TO ALGORITHMS: HOW TO ALGORAVE

Track: Coding & Development

Participants: Alexandra Cardenas, Antonio Roberts, Joanne Armitage, Shelly Knotts

Notes to editors

Adam Goswell from Lush stated, *“Lush, a global retailer and inventor of ethical cosmetics and technologies, are showcasing their latest innovations at SXSW with a tech x retail pop-up experience fresh from Tokyo featuring technologies such as Augmented Reality and AI. Alongside this, Lush are hosting a takeover of the British Music Embassy partnering with British Underground to showcase discussions on counterculture, activism and the future of storytelling.*

*Lush support grassroots movements and communities, so are pleased to support British Underground showcasing Algorave at SXSW 2019, which perfectly aligns with Lush’s involvement with art, culture and digital emerging technologies.”*

About Lush

Global inventor and retailer: Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics is the ultimate beauty delicatessen and, since establishing 23 years ago, has been driven by innovation and its ethics.

Lush leads the cosmetics industry in combating over-packaging by running public awareness campaigns and developing products that can be sold ‘naked’ to the consumer without any

packaging. Lush Digital created to drive lush's digital transformation contribute to and are part of the global open source software community, striving to ensure they use only ethically sourced and powered hardware and take a strong ethical stance on how data should be used and control of privacy given back to the user.

Lush operates a strict policy against animal testing - all items are suitable for vegetarians and those suitable for vegans are clearly marked - and operates a thoroughly comprehensive Ethical Buying department, supporting fair and direct trade initiatives across the world.

Lush recently invested into digital platforms such as its video on demand service Lush Player and its global websites to deliver 360 degree storytelling, driving home Lush's ethics to inform and inspire audiences with our passions and projects.

Crispin Parry from British Underground stated, "*British Underground have been bringing exceptional outsider music to Main II for a couple of years from Stormzy and the grime scene to the Outernational showcases of new London jazz. This year is just as exciting and we are very pleased to support the growing live-coding music community by introducing Algorave to SXSW.*"

About British Underground

BRITISH UNDERGROUND produces showcases and strategic development projects in music and the arts that focus on international success. Working across the creative sector from Stormzy to The Royal Shakespeare Company, we are an Arts Council England NPO and part of the PRSF Talent Development network. Our London office is provided by the Musicians' Union and we have relationships across the cultural sector in the UK and overseas.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

*Alexandra Cardenas*

Composer, programmer, and improviser of music, Alexandra Cárdenas has followed a path from Western classical composition to improvisation and live electronics. Using open source software like Super Collider and TidalCycles, her work is focused on the exploration of the musicality of code and the algorithmic behaviour of music. An important part of this exploration consists of the practice of live coding, including performances at the forefront of the Algorave scene and live coded electroacoustic music.

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/tiemposdelruido/plato>



## ALGOBABEZ



ALGOBABEZ have been blasting eardrums with noisy synth-driven algo-pop since 2016. Formed of algrave regulars Shelly Knotts and Joanne Armitage, they use SuperCollider to code and control patterns of weird, wonky, noisy, thumping, danceable music. OK apart, but better together: 2 babes, 2 laptops and 1 sound.

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/joannne/1-2a>

*Antonio Roberts*



Audio:

<https://soundcloud.com/belisha-beacon-beats/live-at-wharf-chambers-leeds-8-6-17-aka-theresa-may-not>

*Byrke Lou*



Byrke Lou produces electronic music and performances, which are set in virtual, mathematical spaces. Her sound is fragmented, arrhythmic, raw and abstract, but also dreamy, driven and dark. She would describe her genre as minimalistic arrhythmic electronic music, which is performed as a live coding session. Byrke Lou has performed in Lineups with Lady Starlight and DJ Koze and presented her work at the major European art + music festivals such as CTM Berlin and Ars Electronica.

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/byrkelou/code-greenhouse-beg>

*Co34pt*



co34pt is the moniker of UK-based artist Sean Cotterill, using programming languages to make music inspired by avant-techno, hip-hop, footwork, the Euclidean algorithm, nonlinear maps, free culture, (non)repetition and people dancing.

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/co-3-4-pt/0-3-2-5-7-excerpt>

## *Coral Manton*



Coral Manton is an audiovisual artist (Bristol, UK). She experiments with live-coding and electronics exploring improvised audio and visual composition. She has developed work with The Royal Academy of Music and SAT, Montreal. She regularly performs at clubs and festivals across Europe. She has organised an Algorave in dis-used Police Cells under the streets of Bristol and is curating a British Library Lates Algorave taking over the iconic St. Pancras site. She is Lecturer in Creative Computing at Bath Spa University, and is part of i-DAT and The Pervasive Media Studio.

[coralmanton.com](http://coralmanton.com)

[https://twitter.com/coral\\_manton](https://twitter.com/coral_manton)

## *Renick Bell*



Tokyo-based Renick Bell, as one of the early members of the algorave movement, improvises bass-heavy algorithmically-generated music full of percussion and noise by live coding with open source software, including software he has written called Conductive. Bell frequently performs internationally, often for sold-out shows in places like London and Moscow, averaging one performance a week in 2018. Bell played the Unsound Festival in Krakow, Poland in 2018, a festival called by the New York Times "a roaring success" and

"one of the world's more unusual music festivals". Dazed Magazine calls it "a hub for avant-garde music".

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/renick/sets/turning-points-seagrave-sr064>

### *Scorpion Mouse*



Scorpion Mouse is a genre-bending live electronic music duo composed of vocalist May Cheung and livecoder Jason Levine. Inspired by Drum'n'bass, House, Groove music, Trip Hop, World music, and Jazz, they spontaneously create an alchemy of digital and organic sounds and take the audience on an ever-evolving journey. The duo are connected in both the digital world, as their systems share information about rhythm and harmony, and in the analog world as May improvises over Jason's music, while he steers the algorithms to follow the path of her musical phrasing.

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/scorpionmousemusic>

### About Future Art and Culture

Now in its second year, the aim of Future Art and Culture is for Arts Council England and British Underground to showcase to the world at SXSW 2019 an ambitious and diverse selection of creative work and innovative ideas from England using new and emerging technologies. By doing so we hope to raise the international profile and reputation of English artists and cultural organisations, to support talent to gain inspiration and build networks; and to generate opportunities for international funding, exchange and commissions.

Here is a quote from me and boilerplates for ACE and BU - I am asking for a quote from ACE and need to check their Boilerplate is up to date.

"With a diverse and imaginative range of installations, immersive presentations and discussions headlining this second edition of Future Art and Culture at SXSW Interactive,

Arts Council England and British Underground demonstrates how England leads the world in the presentation of cultural and artistic content in the digital space”. Crispin Parry, CEO, BU

#### About Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. As the national development agency for the arts in England, we support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. We invest public money from government and the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)