

A Fenland Symphony

Composed and Directed by Chris Bradbury

Narrator: A Fenland Symphony by Chris Bradbury

Movement 1:

Ryd: What Cambridge is for me, is a place where, my friends are around, my family is around. But at the same time, I also feel a little at odds, with what Cambridge is.

Boris: Cambridge is an amazingly beautiful place. For me personally, Cambridge I feel at home.

Richard: I've lived on the river for eight years. So we are river gypsies.

Ryd: You know when someone says Cambridge. You think punting, University, none of these things are what I am.

Boris: Cambridge is a place where people come and go, Just a flow of people. Cambridge often has this aura of being a representative, 'English City' But it's not.

Lucas: Mill Road has a very international vibe. Quite different to the world of the colleges and the University. It's the most international part of Cambridge. It has a buzzing energy.

CHORUS:

Cambridge; Friends; Community; is it is a place where
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Rebecca: I love the summer nights. When the river starts to get clear. So like once the weather gets better, it starts to get green and you can see all the plants and all the fish. And it loses that like the winter muddy look. I love it when it's like that.
To sit out on the roof in the evenings, playing cards and stuff.

Richard: Yea there's something about being on the water that I love. And I just like the slight movement. You know. It's like very relaxing.

Rebecca: Yeah

Richard: Even when it's raining you just like, hear the patter.

Bar: I'm a freelance dance artist. I'm originally from Israel, so I'm Israeli. And I have a Russian background also.
Yea I was seven when I moved to Cambridge. But I sound English!
Yea that's me!

CHORUS:

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Movement 2:

Richard: It is surprisingly efficient the engine. Although it's a big engine. It just chugs over.

Rebecca: It's also a 70ft narrowboat. And it's so heavy, so just putting my arm on the tiller it's like shaking, trying to move it. Because it's so heavy.

Richard: Yea it's about 30 tons of steel.

Bar: I really remember in Tel Aviv my home. Outside the window we had this plum tree that grew. Just outside the netting that we had, because of the mosquitos in the summer.
In the playground there was this bomb shelter. And I remember going to the top and then sliding down. I used to love it in that playground.

Ryd: I think I was very lucky to have a skatepark built so close to where I was growing up in Cambridgeshire. Undoubtably, that created the person that I've become.
And I think; yea there is a prejudice, or just a lack of understanding that skateboarding is a sport. Not just something that kids do.

Ryd: Now I'm going into acting work. And over the summer I did two jobs. First one was Skateboarding in a scene in a feature film. Which I got paid to do! And that was awesome! And I loved it.

I had to do a trick. So this car was reversing and did like a donut, like a spin round. And after it had reversed I had to Skate in front of it and do a trick. And I loved it!

So that sort of goes to show it's many things other than 'just a sport'.

Rebecca: There was some difficulty a couple of years back with boats on the railings. The council said it was unsafe for them to keep mooring there. So set up this project to get rid of them all. And actually these are peoples homes and they've been living there for a long time.

Richard: You can evict these people, and then..

Rebecca: And then what?

Richard: ..the community's got to pay for them to be in a house. Or not as the case may be because there isn't any housing available.

Rebecca: Just felt like social cleansing to be honest.

Richard: it has bought some challenges. You do get some waives and strays.

Rebecca: Hooligans.

Richard: and hooligans along yea. And some loud noises.

Rebecca: We had some traffic cones put on the roof the other night actually. Woke up with traffic cones on the roof.

Richard: Wasn't the strangest thing we've had on our roof though was it?

Rebecca: No... [pause]
We had a naked man on the roof.

Richard: A naked man having his photo taken on the roof. That was probably a highlight. Or a lowlight I dunno!

Richard: I heard something, and I walked down and I opened the curtains, and I saw this guy taking a photo of the boat. And I couldn't work out what was going on. And then I saw these feet dangling down.

He sort of ran off, down the towpath naked

Rebecca: [Laughing]

Movement 3:

Bar: I just loved being on the stage. Went from drama school to drama school, dance school to dance school. By the end of sixth form I got my acceptance letter to the dance school I went to in the end. At that point I knew that the arts was going to be something I would just go into. And that was it, that was my path.

Lucas: Music does bring people together. But for me, art is the most important thing. It transcends everything, and so people having a moment, being in that moment is why I play music. I'm a drummer and a percussionist. If people are up and dancing you're doing your job right.

Boris: I always had this attitude that I can make any place my home. There is no single community in Cambridge. I think Cambridge is one of the few places in the country, where I really don't stand out.

Ryd: You know when someone says Cambridge. You think punting, University. None of these things are what I am. I am Cambridge, I'm from Cambridge [laughs] like, and that's fine. There are tons of stories like this in Cambridge.

Narrator(credits):

That was A Fenland Symphony by Chris Bradbury

The contributors were, Lucas Keen, Richard Kruller, Rebecca Kruller-Adams, Bar Groisman, Boris Groisman and Rydian Cook

It was directed by Chris Bradbury

The music composition was by Chris Bradbury and Chris Pepper

Recorded at Saltwell Studios

Narrator: Editing by André Jacquemin
The Executive producer was Angela Hind
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by Arts Council England and BBC Arts. It was produced by Pier
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