

Stone Soup - Instructions for sound recording

Thanks for backing my Kickstarter project! Here is a handy guide to help you find and share sounds for me to use.

What are we doing again?

The unique and wonderful thing about this music project is that I will create each track out of sounds that are contributed by all of you - my generous backers!

What sounds should I be looking for?

This is an opportunity for us to get creative, and I'm hoping to get a range of interesting and unusual sounds. Short sounds will be the easiest for me to work with, as I can create patterns using them. However, any sounds are acceptable as long as you follow the rules below.

Here are some examples to spark ideas. Use your imagination!

- Slamming a loaf of bread on a table
- Starting a motorbike
- Blowing over a glass bottle
- Squeak of a pet rabbit
- Dropping a bunch of keys into a quiche

If it sounds cool to you, then I want to hear it.



What sounds are not allowed?

There are two categories of sounds that I won't be able to accept:

1. Sounds that are restricted by copyright
2. Sounds that are offensive in nature

Sounds are restricted by copyright if someone else owns them. That rules out taking audio from something made by someone else, e.g. an excerpt from a recorded song, a sound effect from a game, dialogue from a movie, something off YouTube.

These aren't the only examples. If the answer is "yes" to the question "did someone else make this?" then it's probably under copyright and I won't be able to use it. If you send a sound that someone else recorded (a friend, say) you must make sure you have their permission.

BY SENDING ME SOUNDS YOU ARE GRANTING ME PERMISSION TO USE THEM IN THE ALBUM. Just have to make that clear.

It's a bit harder to judge whether sounds are offensive or not. This is more subjective, and ultimately I'll be the one deciding, so if you're not sure you can send it anyway and it might end up being excluded, or it might not.

I play an instrument, can I send you a recording of that?

Yes, but please stick to short recordings for maximum flexibility - single notes or chords preferred! Definitely no existing tunes (like the riff from Smoke on the Water!)

How do I record these sounds?

If you have a phone you can use that. You might need to install an app that records sound, or you may already have one. Something like 'voice record'.

If you happen to have something with a better microphone, like a Zoom recorder, then please do use that, but it's not required.

A few tips for good sound recording:

- Try to make sure the environment is quiet
- Record indoors to avoid wind noise
- Place the recording device close to the sound source
- Make sure that the sound isn't too loud (if it sounds distorted when you play it back that's because it was too loud. Either make the noise quieter or move a bit further back)
- Listen back after recording
- Name the files to keep them organised

How many sounds?

The amount of sounds you can contribute is determined by your backer level! If you can't remember, go and check on the Kickstarter page.

Level	Pledge	Sounds you can send
Pound for a Sound	£1	1
Soup Stirrer	£5	up to 3
Simmering Stew	£10	up to 5
Bigger Broth	£22	up to 10
Souper Star	£80	up to 10

I pledged without a reward, can I send sounds?

Yes! If you backed without a reward you can still contribute some sounds. Just check which level your pledge corresponds with in the table above.

How do I send the sounds to you?

Please share the sounds with me by email. The address to use is:

andy@hopesounds.co.uk

From a phone this should be fairly straightforward. Just hit 'share' on the sound in question and choose the email option.

If you have any problems sending the sounds to me please let me know. There will be a way!

How long have I got?

The deadline for getting sounds to me will be the end of the year (2022). I can't guarantee that I'll be able to use any sounds that arrive late.

That leaves plenty of time but why not do it this week?

(If you have children it might be fun to involve them and turn it into a sound finding expedition!)

What happens after that?

Next year I will start the creative process - making pieces of music from the sounds you've sent me! This is the really exciting bit. It will take some months to produce the album. I've set the goal of being able to release it by September 2023. Hopefully it will be earlier. That's the point when you'll receive your other rewards too.

Will every sound be used?

Yes. As long as there are no copyrighted, or inherently offensive sounds. Low recording quality shouldn't be a barrier to inclusion, but I will let you know if anything sounds unusable (this might be the case if an otherwise great sound is drowned out by wind noise).

Will the music use backers' sounds exclusively?

Probably not. I'm expecting to add other elements when necessary to make the music work. Your sounds will definitely be the main feature though.

Will my sounds be edited?

Yes, it's most likely that your sounds will sound different on the album. I'll be processing them in different ways to help them fit.

Hopefully, most sounds will still be both audible and recognisable in the music. However, there may be some sounds that are altered beyond recognition for the sake of a musical function.

Any other questions

Let's keep in touch! If you have any other questions or comments please drop me a message. And thanks so much for supporting Stone Soup!

Andy