Living Scores Live: It’s the score, stupid?

Living Scores Live is a PhD research at LUCA School of Arts which explores new strategies for contemporary percussion performance and their impact on the experience of the audience. It aims at critically evaluating the trajectory from learning a contemporary composition to performing it in an interdisciplinary context. On the one hand, the research seeks to reinforce experiencing the performance of contemporary percussion compositions by creating different multimedia interpretations. On the other hand, the research proposes new formats for contemporary percussion performance based on skills and knowledge learned by studying the repertoire. Therefore LS Live looks at performance practices in both classical-contemporary as well as the non-classical contemporary performance scene and experiments how elements of both worlds can be used in a new approach to contemporary percussion performance.

The presentation will discuss the case study ‘Loops’. It explains how a composition for solo vibraphone has been the subject for exploring a multimedia interpretation in collaboration with visual artist Sigrid Tanghe and how this resulted in electro-acoustic and audiovisual improvisations. For this, specific performance software (lsl.lpsr) has been created which implements the knowledge and skills learned by studying and playing the repertoire. The presentation will also illustrate how this individual research trajectory has been implemented simultaneously into the curriculum of students at both the department of music and the department of visual arts. Therefore, the author co-conducted the course ‘Intermedia’, in partnership with the experimental arts centre ‘STUK’ in Leuven, which also hosted the final concerts. The course stimulated students to co-create interdisciplinary performances and was guided by researchers at both departments, including the author.

The presentation will be illustrated with examples of the artistic practice of the author as well as with illustrations of the results by the students which was presented during two concerts at Stuk. (299)

The proposal illustrates how the author’s performance as percussionist and electronic musician is at the core of the research trajectory. It explains how studying and performing contemporary repertoire as well as improvisation is used as a methodology for exploring interdisciplinary collaboration. The course ‘Intermedia’ not only illustrates the implementation of artistic research in the curriculum of students, but also reveals how teaching has influenced the direction of the research. The author also argues that the partnership with arts center Stuk could only be made because of the interchange between artistic research and HME. It is partly that connection which convinced the curator at Stuk to program the project for two consecutive years and thus creating challenging and professional playing opportunities for the students at LUCA school of arts. (128)
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Vincent Caers is percussionist and electronic musician. His main interest lies in interdisciplinary projects combining percussion, live electronics and visual arts. As an artistic researcher, he explores new formats for contemporary percussion performance and their impact on the audience’s experience. Vincent obtained master degree’s in percussion, chamber music and contemporary music performance before becoming research assistant at the LUCA School of Arts. He obtained degrees in electronic music at Ircam and Berklee College of Music. He regularly performs as percussionist, improviser and freelance musician with different ensembles and orchestras. (89)