

EPARM 2020 - LEMUR: Collective Artistic Research within an Ensemble

In this performance we will show examples of some of Lemur's projects that have resulted from our artistic research as a collective. We will perform parts from some of our collective works composed during the last decade.

The Norwegian improvising ensemble Lemur was founded in 2006 with members from both classical music and jazz. Between 2007 and 2010 the ensemble played an important role in bassplayer and founding member Michael Duch's artistic research project *Free Improvisation - Method and Genre*. Here the ensemble functioned as a valuable resource when exploring the possibilities of various strategies for rehearsing or practicing as an ensemble when playing free improvised music.

Towards the end of Duch's artistic research project the ensemble started to investigate a collective approach to artistic research within several large projects with other collaborators. What all these projects have in common is that they borrow titles from central compositions within the experimental music canon, where they are re-contextualized and used as a conceptual vantage point for new works.

The first composition in this series of works is *Critical Band* (2012). *Critical Band* is a modular, site-specific composition designed as a process: a negotiation between a site, a group of musicians and a score. Fundamentally, the piece investigates how music can relate to the space in which it is performed; turning a composition into a utility to illuminate architecture in sound. Ideas from music history, architecture and room acoustics have informed all stages of this project, and found their way into terminology, harmony, instrumentation and musical form.

Critical Band has played an important role in Lemur's musical development as well as within their artistic research; both as an ensemble and individually. Lemur has collectively produced ten more projects since *Critical Band* in 2012. More than half of these have been conceptually based on works by other composers. The performance will include excerpts from both *Critical Band* and *Karyobin* (2016); while *Critical Band* is a sonic exploration of architecture and psychoacoustics, *Karyobin* deals with human relations and interaction. We aim to show these features through our performance.



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Michael Francis Duch (1978) is a double bass-player and Associate Professor at the Department of Music, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, where he currently holds the position as Deputy Head of Department. He completed his project *Free Improvisation - Method and Genre* as a research fellow at NTNU in 2010. He has been involved in more than 70 recordings and regularly performs improvised and composed music both solo, and with various ensembles.

Lemur performs, creates and curates contemporary music in improvised, composed, mediated and conceptual formats. The group works as four-headed organism of strong-minded individuals geared on creative group processes. Since forming in 2006 Lemur has performed in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Germany, Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, Latvia, Taiwan, Macau, China, England and Scotland. Lemur is: Lene Grenager (cello), Bjørnar Habbestad (flute), Hild Sofie Tafjord (French horn) and Michael Duch (double bass)