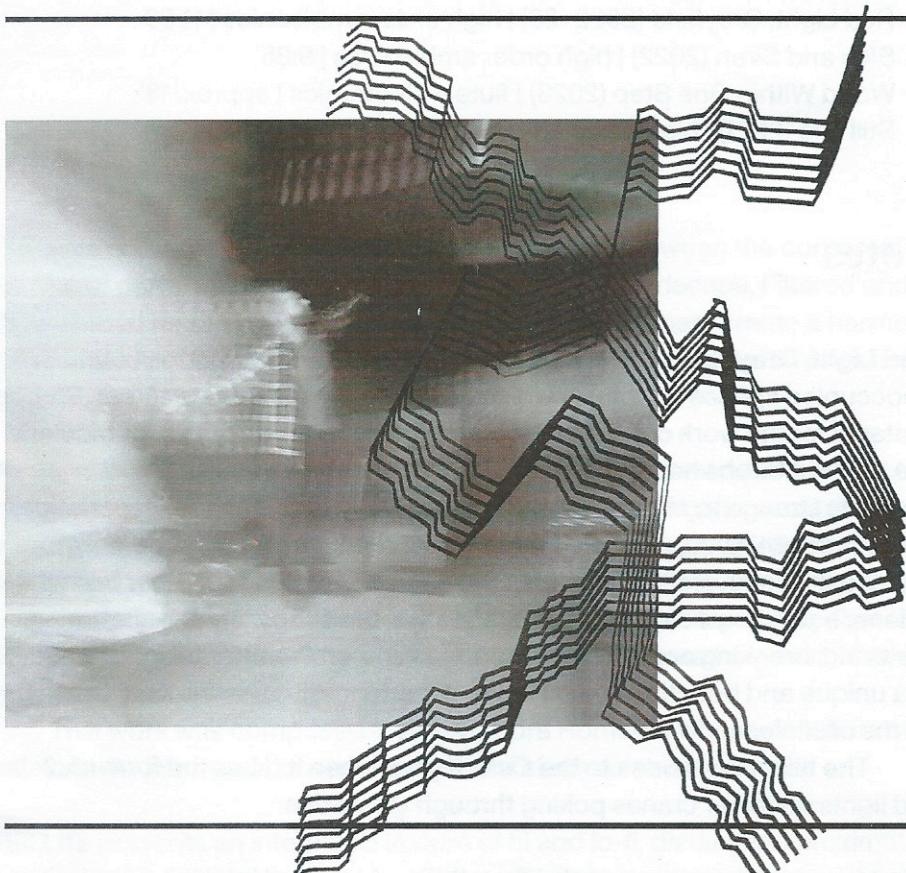


# BEING SOMEWHERE

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17/09/2023 ● 17:00  
Levinsalen

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Robert Seaback (Composition, Electronics)  
Alessandra Rombola (Flute)



Norges  
musikkhøgskole  
Norwegian Academy  
of Music

# Program

- Red Light, Greyfield (2022–23) | high order ambisonics | 11:00
- Skin and Siren (2022) | high order ambisonics | 9:35
- World Within One Step (2023) | flute + electronics | approx. 13'
- Still Life (2021) | high order ambisonics | 10:30

## Notes

**Red Light, Greyfield** is an imaginary landscape in which alarms sound in unoccupied spaces or spaces which are under no immediate threat. Source material for the work consists of recordings made around Oslo, particularly the Air Raid Sirens heard twice a year throughout the city.

It is strange to observe these signals as a strictly sensory experience. From the right vantage point, they sound and pause in staggered polyphony, revealing a diversity of distant echoic spaces melting together from the listener's position. From a close perspective, the sirens are ear-shattering, distorted, breaking apart from dissonance and environmental interference. It is a unique and beautiful spatial audio experience, immersive and invasive in terms of scale.

The title also alludes to the Oslo skyline when it takes the form of distant red lights on tower cranes poking through grey skies.

What layers of meaning remain when the surface level intelligibility of a sound recording is smeared, blurred, damaged, cracked, or removed?

**Skin and Siren** poses a response to this question in its treatment of recordings from percussionist Ingar Zach and field recordings made in Oslo in the Spring of 2022. After the application of digital processes to alter the communication of sources, what remain might be considered peripheral aspects of the acoustic experience—spatial profile encompassing proximate and distant fields, reverberation and resonance, ephemeral transients and noise floor—along with the sensorimotor expressiveness which accompany these phenomena.

“The work presents dreamlike passages alternating between the corporeal residue of performance (Zach) and fractured city soundscape. Filtered and pitch-shifted resonances from the snare drum and timpani create a harmonic frame for much of the work, in addition to resonances extracted from bells sounding at Oslo City Hall.”

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**World Within One Step** is about finding a world within a world. It is about complexity observed in spaces already conceived as singular or elementary units. Small, repetitive gestures undergo constant changes in inflection and shade, and small movements in pitch unfold and blossom into new textures. A parallel world appears to exist below our level of sensibility and control. The title also suggests a near-immediate encounter with something vast, immersive, and possibly unknown.

This work was composed for Alessandra Rombola whose collaboration in the studio informed both performed and electronic components.

**Still Life** presents an integrated texture of hi and lo-fi, distant and proximate, interior and exterior sound images. The work's primary sound sources consist of soundscape recordings from Gainesville, FL, vocal improvisations by mezzo-soprano Marika Schultze, and synthetic sounds made with standard methods.

An important technical feature of the work was the use of sound processing methods based on high-level perceptual attributes in addition to strictly mechanical processes native to sonic computing. These included non-real time onset, spectral, and pitch analysis, and variations of granular synthesis in which data from the analyses are re-mapped to other parameters.

# NORGES MUSIKKHØGSKOLE

Norges musikkhøgskole utdannar morgondagens profesjonelle instrumentalistar, songarar, kyrkjemusikkarar, dirigentar, komponistar, musikkteknologar, pianostemmarar, musikkpedagogar og musikkterapeutar. Musikkhøgskolen er òg ein av dei største konsertarrangørane i landet.

750 studentar og om lag 350 tilsette arbeider saman i ei stor sjangerbreidd som særleg omfattar klassisk, improvisert musikk, jazz, samtidsmusikk og folkemusikk.

Her arbeider nokre av dei fremste musikarane, pedagogane og musikkforskarane i landet. Dei baserer undervisninga på erfaring, kunstnarleg utviklingsarbeid og forsking.

Studia ved Norges musikkhøgskole er ettertrakta og konkurransen om studieplassane er hard. Ferdig utdanna er dei fleste studentane våre på eit høgt profesjonelt nivå og finn arbeid i kulturskolar, i helseinstitusjonar, i band og orkester – eller som solistar på nasjonale og internasjonale arenaer.

NMHs fremste oppgåve er å utdanne til morgondagens musikkliv. Studentane våre skal bli klare for eit yrkesliv prega av sjølvstende, fleksibilitet og musikkfagleg mangfold. Gjennom Senter for fremragende utdanning i musikkutøving (CEMPE) får vi mogelegheit til å utvikle og prøve ut nye praksisar. Røysle frå prosjekta i regi av CEMPE utviklar undervisninga med nye metodar og nye emne.

Det kunstnarlege og faglege arbeidet til lærarane kjem til uttrykk i konserter, innspelinger, komposisjonar, lærebøker og programvare. Nokre av forskarane på Musikkhøgskolen produserer vitskapelege artiklar som blir presentert ved internasjonale konferansar og i anerkjende tidsskrift.

Musikkhøgskolen gir òg utdanning på doktorgradsnivå innan musikkterapi, musikkpedagogikk og utøvande musikk. Stipendiatane bringer ny forsking til faga, og eksperimenterer mellom anna med ny instrumentpraksis, musikarolla og gammalt materiale.

Musikkhøgskolen blir ofte vitja av kjende gjestelærarar og internasjonalt anerkjende musikkarar. Dei held open undervisning og avsluttar ofte opphaldet med ein konsert eller to.

@musikkhogskolen



ultima



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