

Report: Questionnaire for participants of the Crossing Borders Workshops – KC start-up week 2022

Overview of the responses:

- Since the pressure cooker idea was even more present in some of these sessions some students mentioned that they enjoyed realizing something can be created in such a short time
- One student expected crossing borders with/of other art genres and media, not only music.
- Students reacted differently to the exercise sticking to a simple melody or theme, working/improvising with that. Some liked / enjoyed the 'hold-on' character, others missed the freedom.
- Some appointed students mentioned that they liked it and to had been surprised
- Only 8 students handed in the questionnaire

Findings

The reactions are very similar to the ones of the CMC questionnaires. The questionnaires proved again that almost all students have interest in many overlapping music genres unless their own musical background. A general problem, as I assume, was that certain students had been appointed to the group and did not show motivation to participate, though other appointed students had been surprised and liked it.

When asked why they chose this workshop the participants mention wanting to explore new musical areas, literally practicing and experiencing 'crossing borders'.

"I chose this workshop because the program was intriguing. I didn't have much expectations to be honest, which was a good thing, it allowed me to have a very positive and fun experience overall."

Some responses:

Why did you choose this workshop and what do/did you hope/expect to get out of it?

I wanted to learn of the holistic approach a musician could take to stay relevant in changing times.

What was interesting, surprising, unexpected or intriguing: how did it effect you as a musician?

It was interesting that with just one motif, many different ideas were portrayed

Describe briefly the process you went through while preparing: what happened?

(1) It was unique that I was paired with a double bass as this combination is rarely found. To match the double bass, we had to choose something that was soft and low.

(2) Me and my partner talked first for 2-3 min, then we played some ideas until we were both happy and then we just improvised on it for 5 min and talked about it a little then tried it again and again until we had a clear frame work and then we performed.

What did you learn from the experiences during this workshop including the short presentation?

How easy it is to make music with others and also how great of a feeling it is.

What was interesting, surprising, unexpected or intriguing: how did it effect you as a musician?

(1) It effected with a gain of consciousness on how every human as a different approach to art. There is a lot to learn from each other, we just have to listen and be open to interact.

(2) In the beginning I have to confess I was a little afraid how it would work out, since it was such a diverse group. In the end it worked surprising well and definitely let us want for more. The group ended up exchanging contacts and will certainly play again in the future.

What did you learn from the experiences during this workshop including the short presentation?

(1) I learned not to be afraid to play with other people, regardless of our genres/instruments/musical knowledge and backgrounds. Musicianship comes naturally when everyone is open for it. The result might not always be the best, but one thing is for sure: it will be surprising!

(2) I learned that it's ok to lean into what feels uncomfortable and it's great when you have someone else who's also willing to do the same.

What was interesting, surprising, unexpected or intriguing: how did it effect you as a musician?

(1) Connecting musically with the musician sitting beside me [...]. This made me wonder what happened musically that influenced us to both make this choice. It was also intriguing to feel how much resistance I felt since I really wanted to perform, but since others were not participating musically [...].

What challenges did you encounter during this very short and compressed phase of preparation?

When we had to do the assignment with an existing theme nothing happened. [...] Why do we have to use something that already exists? It made me feel a lot less free in working together. I would get the assignment when I would improvise on my own, but for me it made it much more difficult to do this together. This was a challenge. [...]