



**✕ UNIARTS HELSINKI**

# **Sounding Bodies**

**Saturday 14.11.2020 at 19.00**

**Vapaan taiteen tila, Helsinki**

## **Sounding Bodies**

Paola Livorsi, concept and electronics

Marek Pluciennik, analog projectors and 16 mm film

Giorgio Convertito and Vera Lapitskaya, dance makers

Jousitus Ensemble

Hermann Yli-Tepsa, violin

Maija Holopainen, violin

Meriheini Luoto, violin

Dominik Schlienger, viola

Saara Viika, cello

Aino Juutilainen, cello

Timo Pyhälä, double bass

Alejandro Olarte, sound engineer

Jere Suontausta, light designer

Matti Leisma, producer

**Sounding Bodies** is Livorsi's fourth doctoral presentation, part of her artistic research "Human voice and instrumental sound: a comparative study in timbral content", carried out at the Centre for Music and Technology, Sibelius Academy.

The concept investigates the relations between human voice, string instruments, gestures, and sound qualities. The performance will explore the space with bodies and sound: the performers' bodies, the string instruments' bodies, the mechanical bodies of the analog projectors and of the analog electroacoustic instruments.

Spoken voice is also rooted in and depending on the body.

*Sounding Bodies* is a poetic and acoustic exploration of the peculiar Space for Free Arts (Vapaan taiteen tila): a former bomb shelter, built during the Cold War, it is a deep cave in the rock many metres long.

*"Shelter with its rock texture, technical hum and maze of passages is a compelling work of art itself – convex, tangible, inhabited, but at the same time a peculiar utopia, a non-place. As we get into it, we find ourselves in the heart of the Cold War and simultaneously withdraw ourselves from the global communicative temporality. (...)*

*Shelter as a refuge from the threat and shelter as an indicator of the existence of a threat. (...)* Shelter, where you need to settle down or celebrate a feast during the plague (...)." (Suojä/Shelter festival).

The performers will elaborate on texts by the artist and researcher Christoph Solstreif-Pirker, and by the poet Lalla Romano (1906-2001).

*"The floor, the dancing (...), moving foot, and the embedded body are all part of an act, which can be considered as the emergence of a diagram (...) —that opens up a new type of reality. (...) The haptic—the feeling of the dance—flows through these lines as well as the muscles of the moving foot or the light of the photographic shot.*

*The body, so gently embedded in space and time, feels and breathes. It is the same body that becomes manifest in the materiality of the dance photograph (...) — enclosing something, which lives not just for the moment, but which takes the visitor, the observer, even the stranger at any moment into its continuous vibrancy, into an incessant birth of life".*

Christoph Solstreif-Pirker, *On a twirling shoe*, Draw to Perform, Brighton 2017

*A deep sound is in the blood (...)*

*I am in you*

*like the dear smell of the body*

*like the moisture in the eye*

*and the sweet saliva.*

*I am in you*

*in the mysterious way*

*that life is dissolved in blood*

*and mixed in breath.*

*Your voice afar*

*is loneliness*

*more than absence (...)*

*It doesn't matter*

*if there are to fill*

*endless spaces*

*gulfs of time*

*and slow rosaries of hours:*

*I am your neighbour*

*Can't you hear my step*

*in the room nearby?*

*Only with you, stranger,  
I can speak my language  
Since you too come from afar  
And the name of the land we forgot*

*even the most usual and simple  
are words of love  
in the native dialect*

*It is not necessary, as most believe,  
to tell marvelous words:*

*Before the words  
stay the voices (...)*

Lalla Romano, *Poesie*, Einaudi 2001, transl. C. Pavone and P. Livorsi

### **Paola Livorsi**

Composer/researcher.

She has been working in multidisciplinary projects, such as *Rooms of Elements* (Northern textile art exhibition 1 : *infinite*, 2006-07); *Self-portraits, silent voices* (S.Reichenbach photography, S.Susiluoto prose poems, 2011-12); *Sense Disorder* (H.Kozári image and smells), Helsinki Taidehalli May 2013. And in her doctoral projects: *Imaginary Spaces* (J.Laitinen cello, M. Pluciennik live video, R.Fusco/J.de Dios Magdaleno live electronics) Helsinki Music Centre 16.10.2016, Cable Factory 10.10.2020; *Voices and Spaces* (Helsinki Music Centre 20.10.2017); *Voice & Cello* (Helsinki Music Centre, 14.4.2019).

She carries out an artistic research at Sibelius Academy, "Human voice and instrumental voice: a comparative study in timbral content". Her work has been supported by TAIKE, Finnish Cultural Foundation (2018), Kordelin Foundation (2019-20), and the Sibelius Academy Foundation (2019-20). She is a member of Catalysti, MUU, and the Society of Finnish Composers.

**Marek Waldemar Pluciennik** (1967, Can/Pol) is an independent filmmaker and cinema artist based in Helsinki.

The main concern of his work is the materiality of the film medium. Aside from films, his expanded cinema work is site specific, 16mm film projection performances and installations.

In 2017 he initiated Causatum Live Cinema, a series of events purely committed to practices using improvised live moving image and sound.

His films have been screened among others in Madatac07 Festival in Madrid, Images Film Festival in Toronto, International Short Film Festival in Tampere, Process Experimental Film Festival in Riga. His projection performances have been shown in contemporary art galleries and festivals in Finland, Poland, Sweden, Canada and Italy.

He created video art for theatre projects in Italy, Belgium, France, and Germany.

**Giorgio Convertito** is an Italian dancer and dance maker based in Helsinki, Finland.

He holds a BA in dance and choreography, from the School for New Dance Development, a department of the Amsterdam Theater school and an MA in Dance Pedagogy at the University of the Arts in Helsinki. He has worked since 1993 as a dancer and a choreographer around Europe and is also active as dance teacher at the highest levels of education.

Improvisation has been his main interest throughout his career, as a performer, teacher and facilitator. Between 2006 and 2013 he has organized and curated The Helsinki Meeting Point, a multidisciplinary improvisation event whose main purpose was to cultivate unlimited free improvisation in Helsinki. He is the founder and artistic leader of **Liquid**, a free improvisation dance and music quartet. His work as a dance maker has been funded by The Arts Promotion Centre Finland, the Kone Foundation and the City of Helsinki.

**Vera Lapitskaya** is a dance artist. Since 2009, she has been working as independent solo performer and in collaborations with other artists in Finland and internationally. In her works she is looking for a multidisciplinary approach which gives space for dance to meet other art forms. She is interested in composing dances and texts instantly in close relation with live music and objects.

## **Jousitus Ensemble**

**Aino Juutilainen** is a cellist improviser based in Helsinki. She is educated in classical music but at the moment her main focus is in composing and improvising. She has worked a lot with dance, theatre and puppet theatre as well as with wide range of musicians from different backgrounds. Currently she works mainly with her band AINON and a series of sound art pieces called Jälkiä that got funding from Koneen Säätiö for the years 2019-2021.

## **Dominik Schlienger**

I am musician and researcher. Originally from Switzerland, where I experimented with new forms of performances in pop, dance and jazz projects in the 90s, I lived and worked in Bristol, UK from 1999-2011 doing the festival circuit in the West of England. Now I'm researching spatial interaction in music. I play viola in the Free Improvisation String Quartet FISQ, and run workshops in free interdisciplinary improvisation.

**Hermanni Yli-Tepsa** (1979) is a musician and philosopher who lives in Fiskars. He has participated in the outsider experimental music scene in Helsinki for many years and played as a violinist in various groups, balkan and flamenco-fusion and free psychedelic rock. He got interested about improvised music in workshops led by Jack Wright and Eddie Prévost in 2007. He has organized improvised music meetings (SVAMP) and performed solo, in various small ensembles and for example in the band Horst Quartet.

**Maija Holopainen** is a Helsinki based musician and artist. In their art they use violins, prepared violins, bowed lyres, electronics and voice to create hypnotic soundscapes and spoken word pieces. Their musical background is in free improvisation, Nordic folk music and avant-garde.

Instruments: violin, viola, bowed lyres, voice, electronics.

**Meriheini Luoto** is a Helsinki based composer and multi-instrumentalist focusing mainly on violin, nyckelharpa and vocals. Her compositions often have their basis in improvisation, timbre qualities, the experiential, and intuition. The possibilities offered by different architectural spaces inspire her to seek new and unusual ways of performing and experiencing music. With an adventurous mind and the knowledge of Scandinavian folk music tradition she creates soundscapes of something truly old and new at the same time.

[www.meriheiniluoto.com](http://www.meriheiniluoto.com)

## **Saara Viika**

A Finnish cellist whose musical roots start with classical music and expand through improvisation to all good music and sound regardless of the genre. At the moment I'm interested in participating in projects that allow me to learn and develop as diversely as possible as a musician and as a person in general.

**Timo Pyhälä** plays improvised music with double bass. He is the creator and leader of the Impro Festival in Helsinki 2014 – 2015. He is a member of the international impro network. He has been performing with many dancers and made music for theatre and films too. Timo was part of the legendary Viitasaari summer school sessions with John Cage. He is also a sculptor.

His motto - The aesthetics of noise is here to stay.

## **Alejandro Olarte**

I am an electroacoustic musician devoted to pedagogy, artistic research, live performance, and digital lutherie. I am a lecturer in Electroacoustic Music at the Sibelius Academy, Center for Music and Technology of the Helsinki Arts University.

I am a Doctor of Music graduated under the supervision of Andrew Bentley with a project called "Elements of electroacoustic music improvisation and performance".

My interests are electronic experimental music, sound art, computer music, performance art, experimentalism, and cross-disciplinary collaborations.

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