

Draw the music

In this PDF you can read a description of the workshop 'Draw the Music' that took place at *Kunstfest Rotvoll* 24th of August 2024.

The workshop can be divided into 5 parts:

Introduction
Explanation of the concept
Exploring the concept
Let the children draw
The concert

All photos are taken by Thor Egil Leitrø



From left: Jenny Frøysa, Sigrid Angelsen and Nicolas Leitrø

Introduction



The workshop was held in a room that was difficult for the audience to find, so we started the workshop out in the garden by mingling and locating the audience. Then we brought them all up to the room.

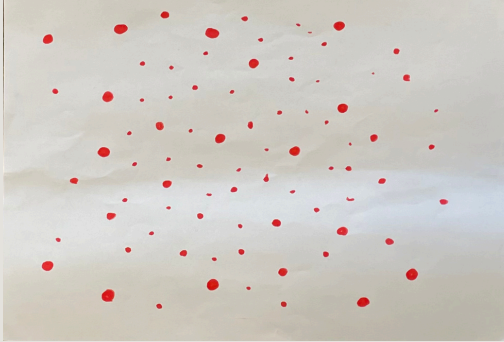
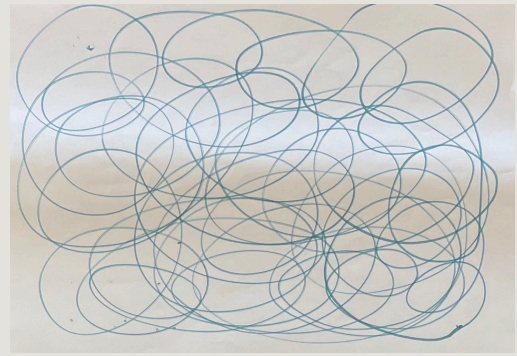
We started the workshop by introducing ourselves and our instruments. After talking and playing our instruments one by one, we played a little improvisation together.

What the audience didn't know was that the improvisation was based on a drawing that was in front of us.

Explanation of the concept



When we had finished playing, we told the audience that we work with making sound out of drawings and drawings out of sound. Nicolas showed them the drawing from which we had just made an improvisation, which got a lot of questioning faces back.



Then we told them that through this workshop we wanted their help to make music from some drawings. We started by saying that we wanted help interpreting these two drawings.

We started this segment by exploring the qualities of the drawings together with the audience. Are there many dots or few dots? Are they big or small?

Audience participation was important in this part, and through trial and error we searched together for some sounds on our instruments that the audience thought suited the drawings.

Exploring the concept



After finding the sounds, we showed them this long graphic notation we had prepared in advance and told them we wanted to perform it with them. The drawing consisted of some of the same drawings as in the previous examples, so we first transferred what we had already done on our instruments to our voice and got the audience to join in.

Then, together with the audience, we used the same process as in the previous examples to find sounds that matched the other drawings. We practised performing each drawing, and finally played it in its entirety with the help of Nicolas' conducting.

Let the children draw

Now that we had made sounds out of a drawings it was time to make drawings out of sound. We rolled out one long piece of paper and told the audience so sit on either side of the paper giving them all a marker.

We told them to listen to what we played and draw what they thought fitted.



Now that we had made sounds out of a drawings it was time to make drawings out of sound. We rolled out one long piece of paper and told the audience so sit on either side of the paper giving them all a marker.

We told them to listen to what we played and draw what they thought fitted.

Afterwards we looked at the drawings together, letting the audience tell us about what they heard. We also talked about shapes and the sound that they could make, and that we would now go downstairs to perform the drawing.

The concert

We set up the drawings on the main stage and all three of us started improvising on the drawing. In advance we had told the audience that we would start the performance by interpreting their drawings, but at some point Nicolas would go to the front and point to the graphic score we had rehearsed earlier in the workshop, and then the audience would sing along in the same way we had rehearsed earlier.



Prior to our workshop, a workshop called 'The Electric Marching Band' had taken place and they joined us with their instruments for our joined improvisation.

The entire performance ended with us singing and playing the large graphic notation together.

