

Collection of information and leads/ composing methods

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It is important to realize our ideas and everything that we have already done. The first lead of something I did along the lines of what I am researching now, appears more than a year ago- november 2019, long before I knew what my research was going to consist of.

It was around that time that I was busy preparing for my first concert at the Royal Academy of Music in Aalborg. I was playing four original instrumental pieces, of which one was very complicated- almost unnecessarily so.

For a very long time I did not know how to name it, and for months the score was listed in my Sibelius as 'very much untitled'. Then, out of nowhere, my mind drew the parallel between a long, complicated piece and people endlessly debating whilst not really changing any policy. The title 'Dutch Politics' arose. The most striking part about this was the reaction of laughter I got from the musicians that were playing with me- apparently others saw an apparent link between title and music too, and it did not really matter whether their association had been exactly the same as mine. I felt like I had stumbled on to something, but did not dwell too much on it at the time.

At the moment my mind is enthusiastically wondering about the possibilities of whole concept albums derived from phenomena like this one, or based on books like 'entering the Doughnut' (Doughnut Economics- Kate Raworth).

But first, there is a lot of ground to be covered regarding my set list and experimental processes of composing.

Here is my circumnavigating offensive to create these meaningful mechanisms of creating:

1. I have made a little starting point by specifying what I have in mind for each piece:

1. Idealist Realm of Art - *dreamy, sketches* - WIP W/Electronics

- Talk about intertwining melodies and references. Discuss effects of this
- Chiwoniso, Ali Farka Toure, Alice Coltrane
- Talk about **sounds** that support and sustain this ambiance
- Otherworldly is abstract. Therefore video can contain clouds, and other than that abstract images that transport listener into a world of colour and sound.
- Sketches with **improvisations** in between.
- Introduction of everyone as musicians? Therefore solo-solo bits in the piece (playing alone/ in duos)
- **Transport into other world**. Art world. The realm of this performance.
- About ambiance and manifesting
- **Invoke thought in audience**

3. Sharing - *concept improvisation*- WIP (E) **no video**

- Sharing a story with an emotion, responding to that with an **improvisation**.
- About **emotion** and the **healing power of music**

2. Discomfort is what we're looking for- WIP . W/Electronics

- Uneasy image- we already have that, I will put it in the drive. It might be enough on its own or with a couple of other sketches. Canvas/ visual background **not full video!**
- Talk about **sound design** that matches
- Positive with unsettling undertone
- Sketch -> sketch with some sound inspiration -> concrete parts
- Discomfort gives insight as reward. Therefore unsettling bit goes away at the end
- Positive/unsettling -> feeling of 'digging deeper' -> meaningful core/ feeling of 'pioneering'
- Spoken word- stories from multiple speakers
- **Digging 'deep'**, **emotion** not ambiance

4. Real Joy Is Valuable- *groove, energy and comfort*. (maybe Electronics)

- Composed in a traditional way, but open
- **Play this together a lot**
- **Joy- interaction- community in music**
- Remembering joy and togetherness before the pandemic
- **Comfort in moving (physically)**
- Low sounds? comforting bass?
- Share joyous music, and what sounds are joyous to you
- High pedal point somewhere in the piece... ?
- Images of being together and making music. The word 'saudades'.
- **Emotional-physical**
- Snow- joy- magical

5. We're All Hypocrites But Let's Try Together - *simple tune, everyone joining in* - WIP

- **Collaborative**
- **Emotion** as well as **ratio**.
- Simple melody going through different styles and different rhythms
- They symbolize different backgrounds and different perspectives, different points of view working together

- Most people wish good upon others, regardless of all the differences. (That's just a corresponding thought to this)
- Tell a story of multiple ones to illustrate these thoughts
- **Invoke thought in audience** and **raise active spirit**
- Maybe no full video needed! But images that match all of the stages this piece is going through
- Panels of running image- symbolizing trying to get somewhere and acceptance of everyone moving at different speeds

6. Entering The Doughnut - trad. composed - WIP

- **Rational/ invoke thought**
- Sounding big and progressive
- Images of nature, of moving, of the Doughnut diagram.
- Fresh, modern jazz with a bit of **improvisation**

7. Processing (Working title. Tribute to Alice Coltrane) - free, ambiance, sounds .W/Electronics

- Caíomhín O'Raghallaigh, Alice Coltrane, Mansur Brown...
- **'Healing music'**
- Textures.
- Less upbeat/uplifting/energetic than 'Idealist Realm of Art'
- Experiment with how much **improvisation** and how much composition is needed.
- Speak about healing music
- **Modes - talk about** modes and the moods that they may provide.
- **Spiritual, physical, catharsis**
- Again, abstract images, abstract video .

8. Free, Flexible and Adaptive (Is how Humans survive) - snippets composed by everyone, put it together

- **Collaborative process**: compose one piece/ idea/ sketch each, I'll connect everything
- **Interactive-reactive** piece maybe?
- **Invoke thought in audience**
- Playful, musicians are kept on their toes
- Therefore also the audience... maybe we should involve them in their interaction
- Play some stuff that is at the border of convention (what is considered 'pretty' or 'coherent' music etc.)
- Play with people's expectations and create an atmosphere of wonder rather than judgement
- Video sketch inspires us all to compose so it has a hidden thread/common source...?!

Gold: words that indicate or literally say 'collaboration'

Light blue: improvisation! (duh, haha)

Dark blue; words that signal a focus of the piece on rationality

Red: Words that signal immediate/physical consequences of the piece

Orange yellow: words that signal an emotional focus of the piece

Light green: words that signal healing music/healing power of music (also not very obscure)

Dark green: sound design involved in this piece!

(Intellectual freedom -trad composed. not in the setlist for now but backup if we are not feeling one of the others)

2. I have tried to categorize the pieces as the following (yes or no:)

Electronic, collaborative in process, improvisational, focussing on ambiance, groove-based, jazz.

3. I have tried to associate on a title.

Here my thoughts on 'intellectual freedom':

Originele gedachtenkronkels- Flexibiliteit in perspectief- self-made - critical thinking - don't follow rules -
don't live by the books - oddity is celebrated, not frowned upon - creative thinking - judge without prejudice-
thoughts/ opinions of one's own - responsible for own assumptions - independent thinking - one chord an freedom within

4. I have identified various possible starting points for myself:

Content - Ambiance - Collaboration - Writing - Groove - Logic (the music software program) - Sibelius - Brainstorming - Composing on instrument - Impulse - Reading

5. I have identified what musical elements I'd like in the performance:

Trad (Irish/Swedish/Mideastern) - Jazz - Ambient - Impro - Afrobeat - Minimal - Contrast simple/complex - Modaal - Singer/songwriter - (neo)Soul - Funk

6. I have contemplated languages in music/ means of communication in sessions:

Irish session: Simple tune, everyone joins in if they know it

Free improvisation: One ambiance reached by all

Afrobeat/Amsterjam: All lock in on the groove, harmony instruments harmonize freely, sometimes bass changes chords leading to next part of the jam

Jazz standard jam: Head -> solos -> head. Freedom lies in the solos and creativity with the tune. Lots of musical jokes are made.

7. I have defined several of my musical strong/expertise points:

Playing modal music - improvise modally - tune reharmonization - making decent sheets for modern jazz pieces - Free improvisation (where everything is improvised, but mostly with pulse) - improvise harmonically free - songwriting (quickly if necessary - making catchy music - make dense pieces - make rhythmically nuanced pieces - make pieces that hold a contrast between simple and complex.

8. I have so far been putting different starting points and all that into practice. I have started by:

instrument composition - looking at video first - skypeing once a week with our video artist - Logic - Brainstorming - impulse (while running writing down ideas) - writing text on video sketch