

ECHOFLUXX 23 International Media Festival

LIVE IMPROVISATIONS BY Brigid Burke (Melbourne) and Michal Novenko (Prague)

PERFORMANCE BY David Danel of WORKS BY Ramin Ahkavijou (Pittsburgh)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Brigid Burke from Melbourne, Australia, is an international woodwind soloist, composer, performance artist, visual artist, video artist and educator whose creative practice explores the use of acoustic sound and technology to enable media performances and installations that are rich in aural and visual nuances. She has performed and composed extensively in solo and chamber recitals through acoustic and electronic media, both nationally and internationally and is widely presented in concerts, festivals, and radio broadcasts throughout Australia, Asia, Brazil, Europe, and the USA. Her focus is integrating musical ideas with a combination of different media. Each component of media is a tool in the exploration of her artistic process: sound (acoustic, laptop, clarinets, flutes, and electronics), composition, improvisation, installation, collaboration (with dancers, acoustic performers, and other new media performers), print making, pen and ink drawings, painting, and animation (digital). She has been a recipient of Australia Council Project Music Fellowships, new work commissions and Artist Residencies throughout Australia, USA, Singapore and Berlin. She co-curates SEENSOUND Visual Music Series with Mark Pedersen and Adrian Sherriff a monthly series exploring the crossover of non-narrative abstract music/visual/live music and new technologies which has been running for over a decade focussing on Visual Music sponsored by Longplay and The Teal house Gallery.

Ramin Ahkavijou's work "probable", is a collection of vignettes written for tonight's performer David Danel, on violin. Ramin, from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, is a composer and improviser who uses technology to generate sounds or manipulate them often manually in live performance. (Check out his work on YouTube.) "While composing, I balance the connections formed between my musical habits and the technological tools available to me. This balanced interaction is what differs between my approaches to acoustic and electronic composition." Ramin confronts sound and time with differing notions of distance and coordination, characteristics embedded in his electronic music. "During my compositional process, I navigate textures, rhythmic frames, and embedded sounds within varying virtual acousmatic distances. From this vast array of options in creating sound structures, I've, ironically, come to kinds of repetition as structures within my electronic work.

David Danel, from Prague, a widely acclaimed improviser performer and organiser, is head of the Prague Modern Ensemble, a violinist of Prague Philharmonic and teacher at the University of Ostrava.

Michal Novenko, from Prague, has been a versatile musician since his studies at the Prague Conservatoire and the Academy of Musical Arts. Apart from organ and improvisation he has studied composition, conducting and a musical theory. He studied organ with the professor Jaroslav Vodrážka, before completing master courses with Jean Guillou (Paris). He has enhanced his performance of Bach works by attending Helmut Rilling conducting courses. Novenko was awarded several prizes for his compositions and for the organ improvisation (Czech Music Fund award, Opava organ competition...). Since 1990 he has been appointed Professor at the Prague Conservatoire. Prof. Novenko also has led the international organ masterclasses in England (Oundle) and in the USA (Denton, San Antonio, Miami). He has given many concerts in his home country and abroad. He has performed in most European countries, in the USA and Mexico, in Israel and South Africa (at such major festivals as Prague, Sion, Arezzo, Rome, Oundle, Philadelphia, Mexico City etc.). Since his student days he has intensively documented and publicised historical organs. His many recordings on CD and for radio and television already feature more than 130 instruments. In addition to the general organ repertoire he devotes himself to improvisation. Also, many unknown pieces from ancient Czech manuscripts are an important part of his repertoire.