

ECHOFLUXX 23 International Media Festival

LIVE IMPROVISATIONS BY Martin Klusák, organ and Šimon Prokop, electric guitar
Thursday, September 14, 2023

For several years Šimon Prokop and Martin Klusák considered bringing together the church organ and electric guitar to improvise experimental ideas and drones. This became real earlier this year, in January, at St. Prokop's church in Žižkov, Prague where they recorded their first free improvisation. This session for Echofluxx 23 at St Clement's is their second attempt to immerse themselves in sounds, textures and possibilities of these two instruments.

Martin Klusák is a Czech composer, sound designer, and intermedia artist, graduate of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in sound design and composition, with a portfolio of internationally premiered and performed works. His work range from composition and sound design for film, television and radio, to original music and intermedia projects that often cross the boundaries of music and sound arts and touch upon other artistic disciplines. He regularly collaborates with the Prague Berg Orchestra, which has already performed six of his compositions. He has created several original music-experimental films and is preparing new original audiovisual projects. He is also one of the founders of the Topos Kolektiv and PET(m)use groups, which explore the boundaries of music, theatre, visual arts and architecture in an experimental way. During his creative career he has collaborated with major Czech ensembles, institutions and festivals, his works have been performed across Europe, and in the US and Japan, he has also received numerous awards. Between 2019-2021 he was the music dramaturge at the Czech Radio Production Centre, where he continues as a permanent freelancer from 2021. Since 2022, he leads courses at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in film music, acoustic arts and music technology.

Šimon Prokop studied architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague (2017) with a focus on generative design and parametric modelling. In his master's thesis, he explored the intersections between architecture and music in the context of sketching and musical improvisation. He works on the innovation of generative design teaching at the FACTU and Archip, and occasionally leads workshops at other universities in Liberec or Brno. In his doctoral research, he investigates generative ambient music as a means of reducing noise in spaces. He co-founded the consulting firm Geometry Busters, which helps architectural studios and industrial companies such as LEGO, Škoda auto, or Preciosa with complex geometric and optimisation tasks. He is a co-founding member of the non-profit research group PET-MAT, which investigates the use of recycled plastic in architecture. Šimon is also one of the founders of ArchiDAO, the first decentralised autonomous organisation for architects operating on blockchain smart contracts, where he focuses on the development of architectural digital twins and their usability in the metaverse.

Echofluxx, started in 2011, is an annual festival of new media with an emphasis on experimental music, sound art and film. The festivals are rooted in the interplay of risk-taking and self actualisation, a resistance to media specificity in art and the mindfulness of Cage. Echofluxx evolved out of the international fluxus movement and the University of Illinois-Urbana, USA, in the 70's where collaborating composers emerged working graphically, sculpturally, in dance, theatre, film and clay, and then through a natural post-graduate diaspora, to produce sundry artefacts, organisations, performances and festivals world-wide, the sum of which increases to this day. Echofluxx was cofounded by the current Director, Dan Senn and Anja Kaufmann. This years festival was organised by Senn and David Danel.