

Music creation from field recordings

Recording and processing of field recordings into a song and live remix performance workshop

Mentor: Jaka Berger



1. About Jaka Berger:

Jaka Berger is one of the most active, creative and versatile drummers, composers and improvisers on slovenian music scene in the last fifteen years. In 2006 he released his debut album with Samo Šalamon and Achille Succi for italian label Splasch records. Since 2014 till today he is regularly publishing music for prepared drums that he is constructing by himself. His albums are regularly reviewed by international media on improvisation and electroacoustic music. He is part of experimental sound installation project Partija/The game with visual artist Matej Stupica, member of bands Ludovik Material and Darla Smoking. Performed in independent theatre shows Gremo Vsi!, Novo mesto Readymade and Nein. Toured with EBM legends Borghesia. In 2015 he released an album of graphic composition Treatise by Cornelius Cardew. In 2016 he performed his most complex piece Audible life stream tentet for ten musicians. In 2017 finished a japan tour and released second album with international VOB trio. Currently he is performing free jazz with Mezei Šalamon Berger trio, Džuklje Berger duo and Šalamon Džukljev Berger – Fresh Dust trio (FMR records UK), Bootleg Unit (FMR records UK), released electro acoustic album dedicated to composer Morton Feldman with pianist Dejan Berden and integrating modular synth into his prepared drumset.

In last years he was a mentor on drumming and musical improvisation workshops and is regularly teaching drums as private lessons. He is constantly upgrading his knowledge and experience in drums, music, composing and improvisation with many different musicians and improvisers from all around the globe and is developing the concept of workshops as a wide collective creative space based on improvisation and communication. With his ideas and approach he incorporates music into our everyday lives and through it teaches and encourages relationships based on listening, responding, coexisting and cooperating.

2. About workshop:

In the first days of the workshop, the participants have a relaxed conversation about music, what is music, what is not music, what ways of creating music do we know, electronic music, field recordings, etc ...

In the following days, we would go outdoors with the participants and record various sound phenomena with hand-held recording devices or smart phones, and talk about what sounds like music to someone. Participants will have to choose a motif and then add (recorded) an audio field recording to this motif, which in their opinion represents this motif. The core of the workshop will be to make the best possible field recording according to the given topic, and to prepare it for processing or remix.

In the last few days, participants will create and process the field recording with different sound effects and perform it live using different software and computer programs. Since there are countless approaches to processing with this technique, the participants will be able to actually create their own song with the help of a mentor also as a sound technician, take it home and play it to friends. One of the goals of the workshop is also to show various unconventional ways (recording by phone) of creating music (including pop music), and thus encouraging creation and innovation in their own way, without huge amounts of money for technical equipment, studios and other conventional elements of music industry.

In addition to the mentioned activities, a relaxed approach to creation and improvisation, which in many ways opens up a new self-confidence and expression in the individual, will be of key importance at the workshop itself. Participants do not need prior knowledge and knowledge of music.

3. Instrumentation:

Participants are encouraged to bring their own smart phones. Handheld recording devices, mixing desk and other accessories are provided by the mentor.