

# Sound & Participation

26 February – 3 March 2018

This two day conference aims to present and unpack the shapes and possibilities of participatory sound art and music practices today. As an inherently relational phenomenon, sound has a privileged set of possibilities within so-called social practice. In or outside of musical structures, sound vibrates against the distinction between producer and consumer, between spaces of reception and spaces of action, between abstract and applied art. It exists in the necessarily public space between us. By acting in such a way, sound and music open themselves up to a wide range of ethical and political questions: who speaks? in what form? to whom? on behalf of whom? who listens? who has authorship and who is paid? The conference will bring together practitioners active in the fields of music, sound, visual art, radio, theory, and activism in order to debate and carve out sound's stake in the political.

In addition to the symposium, three days of workshops will accompany the event, alongside an open forum where students and other participants can present their own work and get feedback. Talks and workshops in English.

## WHO

Bill Dietz, Tarek Atoui, James Saunders, Tim Parkinson, Carolyn Chen, David Helbich, Edyta Jarzab, Anna Raimondo, Jaume Ferrete, Brandon LaBelle, Care of Editions / Gerhard Schultz, Manuela Naveau, Frederik Le Roy

## WHERE

Symposium on 26-27 February 2018 in KASK Miry Concert Hall (Ghent) / Workshops and Open Forum (registration needed) on 28 February & 1-3 March at Q-O2 and Ictus (Brussels).

## FEE

symposium: free / workshops: 20 euro each, on registration only (eveline@q-o2.be) / open forum: free, proposals (julia@q-o2.be) by February 1st.

## organised by

Q-O2 workspace & Ictus, in partnership with Kask & Conservatorium School of Arts Gent, in the framework of the Interfaces project, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

## all info

[www.q-o2.be](http://www.q-o2.be) / [www.ictus.be](http://www.ictus.be) / [www.interfacesnetwork.eu](http://www.interfacesnetwork.eu)



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

venue: KASK - Miry Concert Hall, Ghent

## DAY 1 – Monday, February 26

MODERATOR: TBC

10h - 13h: networks and institutions

### **Care of Editions - Performative Distribution**

This talk looks at a history of performative distribution in music composition and performance as a way to establish a lineage for the experimental record label Care Of Editions. By looking, for example at instruction poems written on envelopes (which serve as scores for unsuspecting postal workers) by Mallarmé and their relation to digital means of distribution, the presentation aims to investigate how the distribution of music, not only its production, can be a field for participatory involvement. Such strategies aim to conflate the role of performer, audience, and interpreter by injecting the mechanics of playback or content delivery with a poetic meandering.

### **Manuela Naveau - CROWD and ART. Art and participation on the internet**

What art can result from the involvement of authors to a networked reality, and what does this have to do with knowledge or non-knowledge? Working at the nexus of art theory, cultural studies, media studies and the history of technology, Manuela Naveau scrutinises the nature of participative art on the internet. In so doing, she provides an introduction to the world of computer-aided participation models and elaborates on terms like the masses and the crowd, the audience, etc. Nave focusses particularly on the various forms of unknowing and involuntary participation, urging a much-needed discussion about how to develop effective design options in a time of rapidly progressing digitisation and transformation processes.

### **Frederik Le Roy - The Museum Echoes. Contemporary Choreography and the Exhibition of Spectatorship**

The background of this presentation is the current institutional desire in the contemporary visual arts world to document, present, and collect works of live art (e.g. performance and sound art, theatre and dance) in the museum. This transposition of works of performance from the black box of theatre to the white cube of the exhibition space questions the historically established temporal and spatial preconditions of the museum experience (e.g. its focus on material objects instead of transitory events). However, it also produces an interaction between the performing arts and the visual arts different codes, rituals, and modes of spectatorship. Starting from the choreographic exhibition *Work/Travail/Arbeid* (Rosas) and other examples, we will explore what forms of spectatorship these projects engender, and what this might tell us about the contemporary dramaturgies of attention and participation that emerge when live art enters the echoey architectural and institutional context of the museum space.

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*14h - 17h: composition and performance*

**Bill Dietz - Feelings Are Alternative Facts**

Throughout recent Euro-American election cycles, much has been written against the "irrationality" and "emotionality" of ascendant neo-fascist political parties and candidates. If we could only get back to rational-critical discursivity! Could music as a technique for orienting asignifying processes - as a practice of nonverbal organisation, play a role in articulating an antifascist politics of affect? Drawing on historical examples and cases from his own recent work, Dietz listens closely for the traces of an assembly imbued with "musical" intelligence.

**Tarek Atoui - Understanding Contemporary Music**

Tarek Atoui will present his understanding of contemporary music and the act of composition in the heritage of Cage, Cardew and Pauline Oliveros. He will then take examples from his project WITHIN, a project which departs from Deaf Culture to find new ideas for building instruments, composing, and performing to show how he composes with research, education, performance and production as much as he does with people, instruments, sounds and situations.

**James Saunders - Group behaviours as music**

In daily life, large groups of people regularly co-ordinate their actions - voting, leaving a building, selecting a restaurant, etc. As individuals we read each other's movements, facial expressions, and utterances in order to negotiate our encounters with the people we meet. These behaviours govern our relationships with others and our engagement with the world. As musicians, we form complex interpersonal relationships both with each other when playing together, and with an audience. The social behaviour of groups can be used as a means to articulate musical structures and processes. Recent work using recorded instructions, performance practice training, and cueing networks suggest approaches to group behaviours that rely on different frameworks to construct relations between performers. At the end of this lecture, James Saunders and Tim Parkinson present a small intervention.

**DAY 2 - Tuesday, February 27**

MODERATOR: CHIARA NUZZI

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*10h - 13h: the public and the social*

**Carolyn Chen - Music in Social Spaces**

In social spaces outside of the concert hall, physically mobile performing bodies lend themselves to social fluidity, reconfiguring audience-performer roles, and highlighting spatially designed structures of power. I will present a few pieces for public spaces open to participants regardless of musical training, and discuss listening dynamics particular to their social circumstances. Examples include pieces for supermarket, human wind-chimes, rolling marbles, and a ballet for small blinking lights. In an art world context, historical precedents include Fluxus, game pieces by Christian Wolff and John Zorn, the

Situationist *dérive*, Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed, and sound walks by Janet Cardiff, Christina Kubisch, Ben Carson, and Max Neuhaus. Other influences include children's games and the Taoist nature philosophy of becoming one with the environment. I address the aesthetics of music in social spaces in relation to these influences as well as concepts of competition, leaderless resistance, disruption, and cooperation.

### **David Helbich - No Music - earpieces: Listening to our own hearing**

Helbich's collection of earpieces tries through different means and set ups to trigger a musical experience without any music being played back. The key is a guided self-performance of the audience, an intro-active situation, that at the same time gives back the agency of the event to the individual audience members. The set-ups vary from public audience-rehearsals and audio guides to simple DIY-notations in the form of score-books and posters. For this occasion, Helbich will present a mix of thoughts and exercises.

### **Brandon LaBelle - Poor Acoustics**

Extending from notions of precarity, Poor Acoustics, considers how sound and listening weaken us, making us vulnerable to the intensities of worldly contact and each other. By reflecting upon particular experiences of sound and listening, the issue of participation will be put into question, drawing attention to interruption, silence, and overspeaking as indicative of a sonic relationality. Accordingly, weakness is posed as a state by which to foster new formations of social solidarity and self-organisation, where participation requires if not demands a poor acoustics.

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*14h - 17h: activism and politics*

### **Edyta Jarzab - Voice of Resistance**

Is the possibility of amplifying the voice a dispensation reserved explicitly for ruling powers? And how can singing and shouting be an expression of consensus and audible resistance against an amplified voice of authority? Based on her research into the sonic-space of protest in Poland over the past two years – a field in which she is highly active – Jarzab looks at the various vocal strategies used in the grassroots political actions in which she has been involved – a practice of gathering voices and exercising loud unison.

### **Anna Raimondo - Gender perspectives and urban geography**

Nourished by her recent theoretical and artistic research, Raimondo attempts to remap and reflect on cities through a perspective of gender. The presentation focusses particularly on the city of Brussels, by showing the results of a collective, workshop-based, urban drive by women. In this workshop, the question evolved: what is a women friendly place within urban space? Challenging the assumed neutrality of 'the public sphere', Raimondo's presentation uses recordings and observations from this workshop as a way to talk about how it feels to be a woman in an urban context, and what possibilities may be present to provoke and activate public space.

### Jaume Ferrere - Your Father Is Speaking with My Father's Voice

Synthetic voices work as a representation of our own voices and, consequently, as a performing index of those techniques and discourses that our voices are practice and product of. Yet synthetic voices are not solely representations of our voices; they equally *are* our voices. As they increasingly partake in similar genealogies of repetition, both the voices we understand as our own and those of the devices we built seem to be reproducing or quoting one another. It is not entirely clear who is speaking.

Your Father Is Speaking with My Father's Voice takes on a possible political history of synthetic voices, starting with an encounter between the daughter of Stephen Hawking, and the daughter of Dennis Klatt, the engineer who, using recordings of his own voice, developed the voice that Hawking himself uses.

evening

Performance: Tim Parkinson - Time with people

# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## Monday 19 - Friday 23 February

### **Tim Parkinson - Time with people**

(venue tbc, with five-day commitment)

Using absurdity, humour, and non-narrativity to redefine notions of music and memory, *Time With People* (2013) is an hour-long music and theatre work by British composer Tim Parkinson (1973). As Parkinson writes, the opera in seven scenes for ten people and assorted objects “redefines fundamentals of opera from its 16th century origins... reconceived from elements of 21st century post-historical culture.” *Time With People* is not an opera in the traditional sense. There are no characters, costumes, or even orchestral instruments. The piece hearkens back to the traditional sense of an opera as a collection of works, yet upends tradition by largely removing music and the orchestra, leaving behind only fragments, both musical and literal: recorded excerpts of Handel and Rossini begin and end the work, while a trash-strewn set serves as an orchestra of found objects as the performers wade through it.

## Sunday 25 February 10h - 17h

### **Anna Raimondo - New Boundaries of the Wellness of the Vaginal Ecosystem**

(venue Q-O2, Brussels – 8 participants)

The workshop consists of collective walks and deep listening in the city of Brussels. Each walk begins from a place that is significant to one participant and developed into a joint *dérive* by collectively following the hearing of whoever had proposed the walk as beginning point. During these walks, each participant is invited to take personal notes (recordings, visual notes, or writing) about her presence in each specific context in that moment. Special attention will be paid to the experience of listening in these places. Eventually, shared material from the workshop can be brought together into a radio show or collective audio(visual) work.

## Wednesday 28 February 10h - 17h

### **Bill Dietz - L'école de la claque**

(venue tbc, Brussels – 10 participants)

That the modern European concert format and its concertante listening are exemplary instances of the historical “public sphere” is a foundational assumption tacitly accompanying much “critical” music production. If, however, the public sphere is retroactively understood as a universalising projection of an exclusive cadre, where does this leave contemporary efforts to think and to counter the algorithmic seeding of publicness that characterises recent political history? Can we imagine non-nostalgic forms of convocation? Following Dietz’ eponymously titled work for the 2017 Donaueschinger Musiktage and its accompanying publication, the workshop invites participants to boo and cheer their way through a history of concert publicness.

### **Manuela Naveau - Knowledge or Non-knowledge**

(venue Q-O2, Brussels – 12 participants)

The internet not only makes it necessary for us to redefine terms such as the masses and the individual, it also focuses attention on forms of participation that occur involuntarily and unconsciously. In the workshop, we begin by looking into case studies about sonic participation, after which we will collectively work, develop, and present our thoughts and efforts to investigate the subject of participation in a way that is grounded in our networked reality - as a means of navigating a course between romanticised conceptions like emancipation and empowerment, and dystopian connotations like surveillance, control, and appropriation.

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#### Thursday 1 March 10h - 17h

### **Carolyn Chen - Music for bodies**

(venue Ictus, Brussels – 12 participants)

Games of listening, moving, listening through moving - requiring no particular training or instruments. Warm-up exercises drawn from aikido, tai chi, contact improvisation, Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed. Tuning meditation, lip-reading confessions, flocking and muting, and hacked games of three-legged races, wheelbarrows, tag, human pyramids, steering and directing the bodies of others. Cooperation, competition, and contact. Discuss how listening, movement, and sound-making interact in various contexts and varying degrees of proximity, and workshop pieces by the group.

### **Edyta Jarzab - Joining the Resistance**

(venue Q-O2, Brussels - 20 participants)

In this workshop, Jarzab shares a set of exercise she has developed and used in Warsaw before and during street protests, that aim to amplify the importance and power of the voice as a tool within political activism. Participants experience and explore their full voice in space, in relation to others. The workshop will look for a possible balance between sounding and listening by focusing on energetic processes, play, improvisation, and non-hierarchical synchronicity.

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#### Friday 2 March 10h - 17h

### **David Helbich - "Audience, listeners, spectators, visitors, guests: how dare you show up!" - audience observations & visitors scores**

(venue Ictus, Brussels – 8 participants)

Audiences are performative, not only in an intellectual sense; by following or watching a work of art - but also physically. Their bodies have an influence on the experience of a piece as well as on the work itself. How can this performative quality of the audience become a part of a work's dramaturgy? How can artists play with this? In this work-meeting, together with David Helbich, the participants examine and search for concepts of intervention into the space of the audience with the aim to try out several options in the second half of the day.

Saturday 3 March 10h - 17h

(venue Q-O2, Brussels)

An OPEN FORUM on the last day offers all players active in the field of sound and/or participation the opportunity to present their projects. Different types of presentations are welcome as long as their contents clearly fit the topic of Sound & Participation and does not exceed a time slot of 20 minutes.

If you are interested to actively partake in this networking and exchange event, send your concise proposals to [julia@q-o2.be](mailto:julia@q-o2.be) by February 1st.

ABOUT WORKSHOP REGISTRATION...

Registration for the workshops is required! Send an e-mail with the workshop(s) of your choice to [eveline@q-o2.be](mailto:eveline@q-o2.be) to book your place.

The reply you will receive contains all the details for bank transfer to confirm your participation.

## Speakers

**Anna Raimondo** completed the MA Sound Arts at the LCC (UAL, London, UK) and is currently working toward a PhD on Sonic arts at ULB and ARBA in Brussels. She has participated in many international exhibitions and festivals including “Nuove frontiere del benessere dell’ecosistema vaginale” at Ex Elettrofonica (IT); “Nous sermons sérieuses de la manière la plus joyeuse” at the Cube-Independent Art Room (MA); “Come un mare fuor d’acqua” at BJCEM- Mediterranea 17 (AL); “Mi porti al mare?” at MAAC (BE); “Verso Sud” (MA); the radio art event “Every time a ear di soun” in the frame of the documenta 14 radio program, at SAVVY (DE); “Everyone has a sense of rhythm” at DRAF (UK); the 5th Marrakech biennial (MA); “Espace (Im)Media” in Sporobole Art Center (CA); and “Dirty Ear” at Errant Bodies (DE), among others. Her radiophonic works have been broadcast internationally (Kunst Radio, AT; Deutschlandradio Kultur, DE; Arte Radio, FR; Rai, IT., etc.). She is co-artistic director of the sound art platform Saout Radio. In 2016, Raimundo was the recipient of the Palma Ars Acustica prize for “Me, my English and all the languages of my life”.

**Bill Dietz**, born in 1983 in Arizona, has lived and worked in Berlin since 2003. From sounding the facade of Le Corbusier’s Unités d’habitation in Marseille to orchestrating echoes across city blocks in Manhattan, his work examines the genealogy of the concert and the performance of listening. Since 2007 he is the artistic director of the Berlin-based Ensemble ZwischenTöne, and since 2012, the co-chair of Music/Sound in Bard College’s MFA program. In 2013 he co-founded Ear | Wave | Event with Woody Sullender. He has worked extensively with Peter Ablinger, Catherine Christer Hennix, Chris Newman, Christian von Borries, and through 2009 with Maryanne Amacher. In 2015, Editions Solitude released a monograph on his “Tutorial Diverions.” In 2017, oncurating.org & the Donaueschinger Musiktage released, L’école de la claque, a collection of scores and essays on those scores by Chris Mann, MYSTI, and Rachel O’Reilly.

**Brandon LaBelle** is an artist, writer, and theorist working with questions of social life and cultural agency, using sound, performance, text and sited constructions. He develops and presents artistic projects and performances within a range of international contexts, often working in public. This leads to interventions and performative installations, archival work, and micro-actions aimed at the sphere of the (un)common and the unlikely. He is also an active lecturer working with institutions around the world addressing questions of auditory culture, sonic and spatial practices, the voice and the politics of listening. Since 2011 is Professor at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway. Current research projects focus on citizen practices, sonic agency and auditory knowledge, and the aesthetics and politics of invisibility.

**Care Of Editions** is a record label that develops new distribution models to provoke performative interactions with the market. For example, a purchase of music opens up a sequence of possibilities for other listeners: in some cases by redistributing the cost of purchase to listeners who are paid to download the same album, in others by creating a ‘listening zone’ which gives free streaming access to any listeners in the same geographical area. Audience participation generates both a signal for broadcasting the music and a means of considering the mechanics of distribution through the interplay of physical and digital materials.

**Carolyn Chen** has made music for supermarket, demolition district, and the dark. Recent projects include a marble chase and a commission for Klangforum Wien. Her work has been presented in 23 countries and described by The New York Times as “the evening’s most consistently alluring ... a quiet but lush meditation.” Her decade-long studies of the guqin, the Chinese 7-string zither traditionally played for private meditation in nature, has informed her thinking on listening in social spaces. Recordings are available on Perishable, the wulf., Quakebasket, and Play It Forward. She earned a PhD in music from UC San Diego, and an MA in Modern Thought and Literature and BA in music from Stanford University, with an honours thesis

on free improvisation and radical politics. [www.carolyn-chen.com](http://www.carolyn-chen.com)

**David Helbich** (1973; Berlin/Bremen) has been living and working in Brussels since 2002. He studied composition and philosophy in Amsterdam and Freiburg. His works take place on stages, on paper, online and in the public space. They have been recently presented a.o. at Martin-Gropius-Bau (Berlin), Palais de Tokyo (Paris) and UnionDocs (New York). Apart from teaching, as for example at the International Summer Courses for New Music Darmstadt, he is the author of the bestselling photo books *Belgian Solutions - volume 1* and *volume 2* (Luster, Antwerp). A recurrent interest is the understanding of an audience as active individuals and the search for an opening up of experiences in socially and artistically restricted spaces. Many of his concepts around physical and social experiences are presented in score books as well as in live performances.

**Edyta Jarzab** is interested in voice as a bridge between the public and private sphere; listening, singing, and improvisation as a practice of social resistance. She studies the sonosphere of protests and demonstrations as well as organises sound walks, workshops, and warm-ups before street demonstrations. Jarzab co-creates the sound collective Critical Band Ensemble and the improvisation group SYRENY. She has participated in the exhibition "Post-peace" at the Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart, the Warsaw Autumn Festival with the performative group ETC, at the Sanatorium Sound Festival; she was the curator of the program "Sirens' Song" at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. Co-author of "Warsound/Warszawa" published by U-jazdowski. She also cooperates with Strefa WolnoSłowa in Warsaw and the magazines "Glissando" and "Wakat."

**Frederik Le Roy** is a lecturer at the department of Drama of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK) in Ghent and guest professor at the department of Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies at Ghent University at Ghent University. He holds degrees in Philosophy (Catholic University of Leuven, 2003) and Performance Studies and Film (Ghent University, 2005) and was visiting research student at the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies at UC Berkeley in 2006. His current research investigates the critical engagement with historicist notions of history and chronologically ordered time in theatre and (cultural) performance.

**James Saunders** is a composer who makes open form compositions that explore group behaviours and decision making. His music has been played at Borealis, Darmstadt, Donaueschingen, hcmf//, Music We'd Like to Hear, Ostrava, Spitalfields, SPOR, Ultima, and Witten. James has worked with Apartment House, Arditti Quartet, asamisimasa, EXAUDI, London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Modern, Neue Vocalsolisten, Plus-minus ensemble, ensemble recherche, and SWR Sinfonieorchester. He studied at the University of Huddersfield and the RNCM, and is Professor of Music at Bath Spa University. James is currently working on a new commission for Arditti Quartet and Ensemble Modern to be played at Wien Modern.

**Jaume Ferrete Vázquez** works with the notion of politics or ideologies of voice and listening through performance, listening sessions, archives, workshops, sound works and websites. He has worked with the University Museum of Contemporary Art of the Autonomous National University of México (MUAC), the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA), the Reina Sofía Museum Radio (RRS), Secession, Teor/ética, SOS festival or Universidad del País Vasco (UPV/EHU) among many others. Since 2008, he helps coordinate the sound pedagogy group Sons de Barcelona, initiated by the Music Technology Group of the Pompeu Fabra University.

**Tarek Atoui** is an artist and composer, working within the realm of sound. His work often revolves around performances that develop from extensive research into music history and tradition, and

explore new methods of collaboration and production. At the core of his work is an ongoing reflection on the notion of instrument and how it overlaps with the acts of composing and performing. Atoui's use of sound challenges and expands our established ways of understanding and experiencing this medium. Atoui has presented his work internationally at various festivals. He recently presented the Reverse Collection at the Tate Modern in London and WITHIN at the 2016 Bergen Assembly and the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels.

**Manuela Naveau**, born 1972, is artist and curator of Ars Electronica Linz. She teaches at University of Art and Design Linz and her research investigates networks and knowledge in the context of computer based artistic practice. Her book „Crowd and Art – Kunst und Partizipation im Internet“ (Crowd and Art – Art and Participation in the Internet) was published in 2017 in transcript Verlag, Germany. She received the Award of Excellence from the Austrian Ministry of Science, Research, and Economy in 2016 for her dissertation.