

MAGNETIC WORKSHOPS

SHORT SUMMARY

The following proposal from the Magnetic North Orchestra is presented to educational institutions in Europe, outlining the possibilities for workshops, clinics and seminars for music students from classical and jazz departments.

The Magnetic North orchestra (MNO) has, in its 12 year history, developed a high degree of competence on many fields within the practice and creation of music, and it is our intention to share this with students and educators around Europe.

Baroque string technique and practice versus classical, composition versus improvisation, rhythmic understanding and training, and phrasing and sound development for wind and brass instruments, are some of the fields in which we can contribute, as well as workshops with large or small ensembles. Normally one would combine these sessions with a concert in town.

ORCHESTRA HISTORY

MNO has gone through many changes in its twelve year history and many strong performers have visited for longer or shorter periods: Marilyn Mazur, Rubem Dantas, the Cikada String quartet, Arve Henriksen, Tore Brunborg, Audun Kleive, Anders Jormin, just to mention a few.

The following is a chronological list of events.

1992 First concert at the Vossajazz festival in the mountains of Norway

1994 Orchestra plays in Tokyo, Barcelona, Munchen and Atlanta as part of the Winter Olympics 1994 cultural festival.

Performances at the National Theatre in Oslo of "SPINN" , a multimedia performance starring dancer Isnel Da Silveira

1995 European tour. Release of "Further" (ECM 1517)

1997 "Explo 97" Multimedia performance at Molde international Jazz Festival

1998 Tours. "Live in Bruxelles" TV production concert.

1999 Release of "Solarized" (Emarcy 547 123). European tour

2000 "Solarized" wins the "Edvard" prize for composition. Scandinavian tours.

2001 Scandinavian tours and debut of "Grand Magnetic" : concert performance concept with 14 string players.

2002 Release of "Kyanos" (ECM 1822). European tour.

2003 European tour. Festival concerts Winterthur, Dornbirn, Gothenburg, Berlin. Recording of new CD for ECM records.

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ORCHESTRA LINEUP

Per Jørgensen trumpet vocals

A true original, stunning player and singer

Fredrik Lundin saxophones, flutes

Price winning composer, orchestra leader and instrumentalist

Bjarte Eike, Peter Spisky and Tom Pitt

Eminent and experimental string players from the early music milieu in Copenhagen, also playing in the excellent quartet Baroque Fever. They have performed earlier with Magnetic North in the orchestral production Grand Magnetic.

Jon Balke piano electronics and percussion.

Founder, composer and leader of the orchestra.

Ingar Zach percussion

Central in the European scene of free improvised music. Performing with Jaap Blonk, Phil Minton, Derek Bailey etc.

Helge Norbakken percussion .

Elegant, strong player, formerly with Mari Boine and Maria Joao

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PROJECT OUTLINE

With the inbuilt competence of the orchestra members, we propose to central music education institutions the possibility of combining specific training and understanding of a spectre of musical activity:

improvisation in groups and individually

All players with the exception of the string group have their long history in the jazz tradition of improvisation, and are considered being at the top level of European jazz at the moment.

advanced rhythmic understanding

Being passionately involved in rhythmic research, Zach, Norbakken and Balke have a long history of working with polyrhythmics and metrical modulation as well as concepts of rhythmic control in the performance of traditional musics.

Baroque, early music concepts and techniques.

Eike, Spissky and Pitt are central players in the early music movement in Copenhagen and Utrecht, and have made many workshops, sharing their experience with students.

wind and brass instrumental concepts of sound development

Jørgensen and Lundin are greatly cherished by players all over the globe for their sound and original approach to their instruments. This is always of interest to the students as a compliment to their normal instrumental education.

composing for improvisers

The orchestras music has from the beginning developed from the idea that the compositions themselves serve as a defined and designed space for the improvisers to inhabit and use. Thus both Balke and the players have been constantly researching how far one can go in both directions, towards a fully composed, and into completely free improvised music while taking care not to lose the dynamic spontaneous creative characteristic atmosphere that MNO is known for.

All musicians in the orchestra have extensive experience in teaching and leading workshops.

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DETAILS

A workshop like this could expand over anything from one or three days to a full week, and could involve group / ensemble sessions, individual instrumental classes, large ensemble playing and concerts at the institution, or in the city . All this can be tailored according to the need and specifics of the institution.

An example of a three day seminary:

Monday:

General presentation of the project to all participating students.
Separate clinics for string players, percussionists, brass/winds and composition students.

Large ensemble (MNO musicians and students)

Tuesday

Open talks on complex rhythm parameters for all students

Separate clinics

Large ensemble

Wednesday

Open talks on baroque music practices for all students

Individual classes for piano (or/and electronics), sax, trumpet or vocals, violin, cello, percussion.

Improvisation sessions with small groups

Concert in town with Magnetic North Orchestra

We see this as a very meaningful way of sharing and communicating the musical ideas we base our activity on. From past experience we know that this generates new energy into the institutions, deeper understanding in the students, good human interrelations, and great concert situations.

We would also like to emphasize the opportunity to bridge the gap between classical and jazz departments in the institutions.