

EXPLORE_HÄNDEL

A jazz-baroque fusion based on works by Georg Friedrich Händel

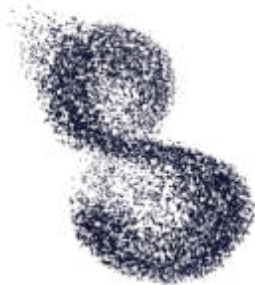
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Nowadays, we are mainly familiar with improvisation as an elementary form of expression in jazz. However, within classical music, there were also periods of time, in which improvisation played an important role, for example in the Baroque era. Although the musicological term used to describe the extensive ornamentation techniques, melodic improvisations over ostinato bass figures and the execution of the basso continuo would not strictly be "improvisation", but rather something along the lines of "fantasising" or "preluding", the implicitness of improvisatory techniques in baroque music and the associated demands on the musicians' improvisation skills are evident.

The musicians of Stegreif take this connecting element between jazz and baroque as an opportunity to take a modern, musical look at Georg Friedrich Händel's (1685-1759) works – from the traditional Concerto Grosso in G minor (Op. 6 No. 6, HWV 324: III) to the famous Rinaldo aria "Lascia ch'io pianga" (HWV 7) and Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt (HWV 54). The result is a chamber music concert performance for 7 musicians with different artistic backgrounds, each with different approaches to baroque music and the art of improvisation. The performance is created on the spot by the musicians under the musical direction of Alistair Duncan, and is played by heart, freely moving in the performance space.



Photo: Navina Neuschl



Stegreif

THE IMPROVISING
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Premiere: 24.02.2024, Klassik in Spandau

Artistic lead: Lorenz Blaumer

Recomposition, arrangement & musical direction: Alistair Duncan

Director, scenography: Gineke Pranger

Duration: approx. 75 minutes

Press reviews:

"Lively, witty and multi-coloured: that was this jazzy Handel in Karlsruhe, which was performed in this form for the first time and was met with great enthusiasm by the audience." ~ Die Rheinpfalz, 26.02.2023

"Of course, his [Alistair Duncan's] arrangements provided ample opportunity for virtuosic improvisation by the individual soloists as well as a swinging rhythmic basis and original reinterpretations of the historical material." ~ Die Rheinpfalz, 26.02.2023

"Alistair Duncan, who, incidentally, plays the trombone fantastically, knows 'his Händel'. He selected themes that lent themselves well to improvisation, then gave them a new musical guise in a highly inventive and, in the best sense, stylish way." ~ Die Rheinpfalz, February 26, 2023

Participants (10 people in total):

7 musicians*: Violin, viola, trombone, reeds, guitar (with amplifier), double bass (with amplifier), drums

3 staff: stage management, lighting design, production management

Extract of required technology:

- Adequate lighting equipment,
- Stage platforms at different heights
- Stereo P.A., appropriate to the venue
- Complete concert drum set with stool
- Guitar amplifier, bass amplifier,
- a wireless hand-held microphone with stand

Stegreif normally plays without amplification. If special room acoustics require amplification, clip microphones and radio links are required.

Complete tech rider on request. .



CONTACT US:

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