

Georg Hofmann's Extended Extensions

living for 2 years in Mexico City, Georg Hofmann played with almost the whole community of improvisers there. Besides Tambuco's incredible Marimbavirtuoso Raúl Tudón, with whom and Steve Gorn on Bansuri-Flute he leads the trio «Shades of Time», the most intense collaboration resulted with Remi Alvarez on sax and bassist Aaron Cruz. For the coming Swisstour of the Extensions he invited both of them to join his Swiss colleagues.

Mexico City's jazz and improscene is almost unknown outside Mexico. But there definitely is a lot of talent and an astounding number of musicians with their own voice and playing on an international level to be found. After the discovery of creative voices like Lila Downs and Rockgroups like Molotov and Café Tacuba, it seems that also these Improvisers start to get better known internationally. The Wire Magazin published an article on the Mexico City scene in its July 2003 issue. It is available as a jpg. Contact me please....

FreePulseNoiseMusic

after occasional rehearsals with pianist Christoph Baumann in his studio during some time and a strong duo with guitarist VinzVonlanthen at the Workshop of Improvised Music in Zürich, I invited both to play concerts in Berne and Zürich, Switzerland. The experiment being a success for all of us, I decided to continue the trio as a regular unit, calling it «Georg Hofmann's Extensions» due to the fact that the sounds produced by guitar and piano often seemed to be an extension of my drumset and percussion work.

Basically we improvise freely. The result however is more than the usual reminiscence to the old times of freejazz or intellectualism. I call this music FreePulseNoiseMusic because this best describes, what is happening. Our palette of expression goes from hectic to melancholic, from the thin to the juicy to the warm and poetic. In any case it is dynamic, contemporary and diverse.

After touring Switzerland in early 2002 the first CD «sit back and relax» was released on the Swiss label Altrisuoni.

Georg Hofmann

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REMI ALVAREZ was born in Mexico City. He studied at the Superior School of Music (1982-86), at the Creative Music Studio, New York with Anthony Braxton, Roscoe Mitchell and Don Cherry and in 1988 in Paris, with Steve Lacy. He was a member of several groups such as the Francisco Tellez "Mexican Jazz Quartet", Pepe Mata Big Band, The Mexico City Saxophon Quartet and participated in orchestras like the National Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra of the National Camerata of the Americas, with whom he recorded a CD. He is the founder of Craneo de Jade, a group with which he has recorded and co-produced three records,

"Cráneo de Jade" (1997), "Papirolas" (2000), and "Pleione" (2002). He has performed with Craneo de Jade all over the Mexican Republic. In 1997 the group was invited by Chucho Valdez to take part in the International Jazz Plaza Festival in La Habana, Cuba. Alvarez is a member of the group "Astillero" since 1999, and recorded with them the CD "Tequio" (2001). This group was recently invited to the 2001 International Jazz Festival "Rendez Vous de l'Erdre" in Nantes, France. Currently he teaches saxophone and conducts the Big Band at the National Music School of the UNAM and he is also member of the saxophone quartet "Tonguyetzé". He has participated in several jazz festivals such as the International Jazz Plaza in La Habana, Cuba, the Rendez Vous de l'Erdre Festival in Nantes, France, the International Cervantine Festival, The Plaza Wind Festival, the Mexico City International Jazz Festival, the Eurojazz Festival and Festival of the Arts in Puebla, a.o.

AARON CRUZ BRAVO, born in Mexico City, learned to play electric bass on his own and studied acoustic bass with Agustín Bernal. He has played jazz since 1994, and is co-founder of Cráneo de Jade, with whom he played the 1997 International Jazz Plaza Festival in La Habana, Cuba. From 1998 to 2001 he was a member of guitarist Cristobal Lopez' Group. In 2000 he recorded with the group Tritonia and attended with them the Jazz Plaza Festival once more. He is currently the most in-demand bass player in Mexico City and is member of some of Mexico's most renowned projects: Cráneo de Jade, Iraida Noriega's Group, Santella-Cruz-Hecht Trio, Alejandro Campos Quartet, Francisco Lelo de Larrea Quintet and performed and recorded with Lila Downs. His freelance work includes: Eugenio Toussaint, Héctor Infanzón, Ricardo Benítez, Roberto Betuco Arballo, Eduardo Piastro, Emmanuel Mora, Magos Herrera, etc. He simultaneously participates in some mainstream music projects and works as a session-player. He has played throughout Mexico, as well as in South America, the Caribbean, Europe and the United States.

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«with its skittering distorted guitar, aggressive out-of-kilter drums and hammered piano clusters, the title of this album and opening track seem more a dare than an invitation. This trio sounds like a garage band from a 22nd century dystopia. This comes through most strongly on «postatomar shuffle» with its jagged, astringent funk and the quirky «elephant's dance». The music's textures belie its seemingly limited palette with individual instruments taking turns as lead voice. ... the band shows it can play with delicacy as on the fragile «ballad» and «lonely mosquito».» David Dupont, Cadence May 2003

«here is a disc full of scrap and hardware preciousities, full of anxious chords. ... we sink into the perceptible and loose the north (zero wish to find it again). We disconnect us from the academic. We touch the forbidden, pass crazy machines, we take refuge, shocked by this astounding trios navigation. People say that Switzerland is really strange...but time and again we will go back again». Luc Bouquet, Improjazz March 2003

«sit back and relax» is the title of the album. do it, when listening to it, as this music is challenging. Repeated and concentrated listening however will bring you to an experience of sound that is close to a revelation. All of a sudden you understand Georg Hofmann talking about FreePulseNoiseMusic. ... sparseness contrasts voluptuous walls of sound. space and sound melt, the instruments and their soundspectras are fully exploited. New worlds open to the listener and in front of the inner eye evolves the film to the soundtrack. ... Hofmann managed to fuse John

Bonham and Pierre Favre and found his own sound more than ever before.» Rainer Froehlich, jazz n'more June/July 2002

«... after a cautious start, the trio grew to a unit and played a thrilling and dynamic music full of detail. ...» Aargauer Zeitung, January 2001

«cosmic sounds, unheard structures» Jacques Rohner, Der Landbote, January 2001

Georg Hofmann born in Zürich/Switzerland, studied with Pierre Favre. Besides the «extensions», he is a member of «shades of time» with Steve Gorn (Bansuri) and Raúl Tudón (Marimba) and «Carr-Nord-Hofmann». As a freelancer he worked with Charles Gayle, Steve Gorn, Robert Dick, Trevor Watts, Pierre Favre, Cyro Batista, Christoph Baumann, Hans Koch, Gene Coleman among others. Georg Hofmann also composes for theater, dance, film and fashionshows and teaches drums and percussion as well as improvisation in different institutions in Switzerland and USA (e.g. Columbia University, New York). For the last 2 years he lived as the Artdirector of ArtLife Latinoamérica in Mexico City playing with almost every member of the improvising community there. Tours brought him to Switzerland, Germany, France, Holland, USA and Mexico.

Christoph Baumann born in Baden/Switzerland, studied at Jazzschool in Bern, 1982-90 teacher for improvisation at Konservatorium Zürich, teaches theory and piano at Hochschule für Musik Luzern since 1983. Baumann composes for film, theater and multimedia: J.D. Kollekdoof, festivals in Baden and Zug, Tellspielhaus Altdorf, IMF Luzern, Conellis Circustrum, Schauspielhaus Zürich, and for several independent theatergroups such as: M:A:R:I:A:, In Situ, Vaudeville, Phönixtheater Linz, Alpodrom, il Sogetto, Fassontheater, Suriel-Tanztheater and CH-Tanztheater, silentmovieprojects(“Von Morgens bis Mitternacht”, “Berlin Symphonie der Grossstadt”, “Sturm über Asien”. Today he works mainly as improvising musician and composer. He is the leader of the Latin-Experimental Group «Mentalities», the Baumann-Hämmerli-Sextett and coled with Urs Blöchliger «Cadavre Exquis» and the Rezessionsorchester. He played with: Joe Malinga, Benny Wallace, Tom Scott, Dave Taylor, Tom Varner, Petras Vyshniauskas, Letieres Leite, Urs Blöchliger, Martin Schlumpf, Marco Käppeli, Runo Eriksson, Didier Levallet, Juan Munguia, Laurent Dehors, Ramon Lopez, Les Passeurs d' Instants, Omnibus, Nuevo Sabor, Picason, Swiss-Fusion, Bermuda Viereck, Orchestre National de Jazz de La France, La Marmite Infernale, Afro Garage, Nuit Balte, Schweiz.Schlagzeugensemble, Kleinzeit, Kande La Banda. Tours, Festivals and Concerts in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Greece, India, Baltic Republics, Russia, Finnland, Cuba, Madagaskar, Bolivia, Peru. Festivals include: Montreux, Willisau, Zürich, Schaffhausen, Lausanne, Genève, San Sebastian, Vilnius, Tallin, Kaunas, Nomes, Santjago de Cuba, Havanna, Bangalore, Sofia, Cluny, Moskau, Leibzig etc. .

Vinz Vonlanthen born in Bern/Switzerland, “ Swiss Jazz School ” in Bern, longer trips to Paris, Brasil and Westafrica. Vonlanthen composes for Film (e.g.. Tinguely-Museum by Ruedi Gerber) Theater and Dance (“ Invisible Portraits ” by Susanne Daepfen, Battakí). With his quartett URBAN SAFARI he toured Europe and Japan extensively and releases 3 CD's. Projects and Concerts with: Kenny Wheeler, Jacques Demierre, Sylvie Courvoisier, Jacques Siron and Marco Käppeli. Festivals: Yokohama Jazzfestival 98/99, Japan, Modern Art Museum Tokyo 98, Jazzfestival AMR 96/99, Geneva, Belga Jazz Festival, Bruxelles 98, Jazzfestival Konstanz

96(D), Jazzfestival Lausanne 96, Porgy and Bess, Vienna, A-Train, Berlin (D), Reduta, Prag (CzR), Tonne, Dresden (D).