



Decay

with Claudia Molitor (piano), Tullis Rennie (trombone)
and Pete Stollery (Electronics)

St. Andrew's Cathedral Small Hall, Aberdeen

Friday 25th October 2019, 6pm

sound*conversation* with Claudia Molitor at 5.30pm

Programme notes

Claudia Molitor *Decay*

Decay, by Claudia Molitor, is a musical project that reflects back life by existing as a constant work-in-progress. Unfinished, each performance connects with the last to provide a meditation on the slow-releasing transformations that exist in all cases of life.

While *Decay* was conceived by Molitor, and she invited Tullis Rennie to collaborate for every concert, each performance also involved a different guest artist who, in their way, become an “author” of the piece, altering its course and leaving a mark on its timeline.

Molitor describes this process as “generative”, inviting different artistic voices to “change and challenge any sense of authoritative iteration”. It is not only the mechanics of the piece that change –

along with instrumentation and musical structure, the philosophy of *Decay* is in flux, Molitor inviting artists to respond, in their own way, to the process her piece describes. Molitor notes the ubiquitous nature of her theme – because decay is a fact of existence, it is something we “are troubled by and drawn to in equal measures”. As such, the piece draws on individual experiences, to the personal existentialism of each artist contributing to it.

Molitor’s hope for the work to “embrace the melancholy of loss, and rejoice in the promise of change” is reflected in the process of composition itself, the idea that all elements of the piece gradually shift, and disappear entirely. It is rare that music pieces retain their name while becoming entirely different, but it is also in this way that *Decay* becomes reflective of life itself – of the ways that a person becomes as different as they are the same. Molitor notes that art is constantly “capturing a moment, freezing it in time, preventing it from changing”, but *Decay* is the opposite: it is a living thing, that will eventually transform into non-existence.

Decay is touring from 2018 to 2019, performed at hcmf//, IKLECTIK, sound, Transit (Belgium), Austin (US), November Music (Netherlands), Sound of Stockholm (Sweden). It is produced by hcmf// and supported by PRS Foundation’s The Composers’ Fund.

(Robin Smith, hcmf//)

Biographies

Claudia Molitor is a composer, artist, and improvising pianist, whose work draws on traditions of music and sound art but also extends to video, performance and fine art practices. Exploring the relationships between listening and other senses as well as embracing collaboration as compositional practice is central to this work. Recent work includes Sonorama with Electra Productions, Turner Contemporary and the British Library, which received a British Composer Award, Vast White Stillness for Spitalfields Festival and Brighton Festival, The Singing Bridge, installed at Somerset House and Waterloo Bridge during Totally Thames festival and Walking with Partch for Ensemble Musikfabrik at hcmf//.

Tullis Rennie is a composer, improvising trombonist, electronic musician, and field recordist. His work encompasses sound installation, community-engaged participative projects, multi-channel concert works, video, mixed media and live/improvised performances. He is co-founder of Walls On Walls with visual artist Laurie Nouchka, and a founder member of Insectotròpics, an audio-visual collective based in Barcelona. His work has been presented at concerts and festivals in 15 countries, alongside national broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and ResonanceFM. He features on recent recordings released by the Luminous label, ZeroWave and Efpi Records.

Pete Stollery studied composition with Jonty Harrison at the University of Birmingham, where he was one of the first members of BEAST in the early '80s. He composes music for concert hall performance, particularly electroacoustic music and more recently has created other work, including sound installations and internet projects. In 1996 he helped to establish the acousmatic collective *invisibleARTs* and in 2004 he was part of the setting up of sound, a new music incubator in NE Scotland. His music is published by the Canadian label empreintes DIGITALEs.

Decay was produced by hcmf// and supported by the PRS Foundation's Composers' Fund


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sound is a new music incubator based in north-east Scotland encouraging new music creation and discovery. We run the annual **soundfestival**, as well as year-round activity supporting a wide range of composers, engaging with local communities and providing educational opportunities

Find out more: www.sound-scotland.co.uk

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