



THREE PLUS ONE

Phil Durrant (semi-modular synths)
Lee Patterson (amplified objects, devices, and processes)
Bill Thompson (Moog guitar and live electronics)
Mark Wastell (tam tam & metal percussion)

Thursday 26th October 2023, 6pm
King's Pavilion, University of Aberdeen

In association with the University of Aberdeen Music Department.

*With thanks to the University of Aberdeen Music Department
for the loan of percussion instruments.*

Programme notes

THREE PLUS ONE: Phil Durrant, Lee Patterson, Bill Thompson, and Mark Wastell

THREE PLUS ONE was formed in 2018 by Phil Durrant to explore Pauline Oliveros' concept of 'Deep Listening' within drone-based improvised music. The group included Phil Durrant (amplified objects, modular-synth & electronics), Rhodri Davies (harp and electronics), Bill Thompson (Moog guitar and electronics) and Mark Wastell (tam tam & metal percussion). Since then **THREE PLUS ONE** has also included Phil Julian (electronics) and most recently Lee Patterson (amplified objects, devices and processes).

All of these musicians have performed together in different combinations since the mid-1990s and share a deep affinity for Oliveros's Deep Listening approach to improvisation and music making. For Oliveros, listening was of central concern – not only to music, but to life. For her, it was more than just hearing, it was active and gave 'attention to what is perceived both acoustically and psychologically...It allows age, experience, expectation and expertise to influence perception.'

This evening's concert will explore these ideas and others within a layered-based improvised context lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Biographies

Phil Durrant

Born near London in 1957, Phil Durrant is a multi-instrumentalist improviser/composer/sound artist who currently performs solo and group concerts. As a violinist (and member of the Butcher/Russell/Durrant trio), he was one of the key exponents of the "group voice approach" style of improvised music. In the late 90s, his trio with Radu Malfatti and Thomas Lehn represented a shift to a more "reductionist" approach. Durrant performs regularly with the acoustic/electronic group Trio Sowari (with Bertrand Denzler and Burkhard Beins) and Mark Wastell's The SEEN as well as the international electronic ensemble MIMEO with Keith Rowe, Kaff Matthews, Thomas Lehn a.o. With Mark Wastell, Steve Beresford and David Toop, he is currently performing in an audio/visual project celebrating the work of the artist Alan Davie.

Lee Patterson

Through using sound recording to train his ears, Patterson has developed a dual practice that includes live performance and fixed works. By exploiting chemical and mechanical synthesis, he has created a range of amplified devices and processes that produce or uncover complex sound in unexpected places.

From rock chalk to springs, from burning nuts to aquatic life and insect chants inside plants, he eavesdrops upon and makes a novelty of playing objects and situations otherwise considered mute.

His collaborators have included Mika Vainio, Jennifer Walshe, Vanessa Rossetto, David Toop, Rhodri Davies and John Butcher, Greg Pope, Benedict Drew, Luke Fowler, Lucio Capece, Rie Nakajima, Angharad Davies, Keith Rowe, John Tilbury, Xavier Charles and Tetsuya Umeda.

His works have featured on UK television, BBC Radios 3, 4 and 6, Resonance FM and on radio stations worldwide. He lives and works in Prestwich, Manchester, UK.

Bill Thompson

Bill Thompson is a sound artist and composer. He performs regularly as a soloist as well as in a number of groups including The Seen, zerøspace, and Airfield (with Ian Spink), and duos with Richard Sanderson, Phil Durrant, and Yoni Silver. Past collaborations include performances with Keith Rowe, Faust, EXAUDI and others.

Although originally trained as a guitarist, Thompson has worked with live electronics for the better part of 15 years. In recent years he has returned to guitar using one built by Moog combining it with electronics with miscellaneous tabletop devices, found objects, flashing lights, and the occasional vibrator.

He has earned numerous awards and commissions including the PRS for New Music ATOM award, the GAVAA visual arts award, a PRS for New Music Three Festival commission, the 2010 Aberdeen Visual Arts Award, and was nominated for the Paul Hamlyn Award.

Mark Wastell

Mark Wastell is a versatile improvising musician who has played a central role in the British improvised music scene for over a quarter of a century. He has performed and recorded extensively and his varied resume includes projects with Derek Bailey, Phil Durrant, John Butcher, Lasse Marhaug, Rhodri Davies, Simon H. Fell, Burkhard Beins, John Tilbury, Mattin, Mark Sanders, Tony Conrad, Evan Parker, Tim Barnes, Bernhard Günter, Keith Rowe, John Zorn, Peter Kowald, Joachim Nordwall, Otomo Yoshihide, Paul Dunmall, David Toop, Alan Wilkinson, Max Eastley, Hugh Davies, Julie Tippetts, Alan Skidmore, Mike Cooper, Chris Abrahams, Stewart Lee, Clive Bell, Arild Andersen, Jan Bang, Maggie Nicols, Thurston Moore and David Sylvian.

This year's **soundfestival** is dedicated to the memory of Angela Michael and of Ian Spink. We very much valued each of their contributions to **sound**, and they will be greatly missed.

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