
subject catalogue S23 K24

course code NIX235

name of course

International Collaboration in Contemporary Improvisation

specification

elective course for MA level and BA level 3rd year students

academic instructor

A.Pett, J.Sikk, J.Krivel, guest lecturers

prerequisite course

NIX610 or NIX950

no of terms

2

contact hr/total

60.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

1.0

ECTS/total

5.00

Lect

0.0

Grp

60.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

A

term

1

2

ECTS

2.00

3.00

aim of the subject

This course aims to allow students with an advanced level of skill in instrumental/vocal/electronic performance to experience a range of approaches to contemporary improvisation, in order to explore and develop their own performing practice in this field.

content

Students will attend four intensive three-day workshops, each led by an expert practitioner from one of the partner institutions. The partners are:

Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia (EMTA)

Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC)

Lietuvos muzikos ir teatro akademija (LMTA)

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS)

Among the approaches that may be used include exploring open scores (text, graphic), conduction, extended techniques, solo and group improvisation, electronics, and bimusicality.

Study takes place in small groups (3-8 students). Between courses, teaching will take place as an individual lesson.

learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student will be able to

- Demonstrate an ability to improvise fluently in a range of contemporary idioms,
- Synthesise a range of teaching and learning approaches within your own improvising practice,
- Collaborate successfully within an ensemble,
- Develop the skill of active listening in performance,
- Show a creative approach to instrumental/vocal/electronic performance.

assessment

100% in the 1st semester and 80% in the 2nd semester – observation of working practice (each workshop tutor writes a report on the observed work of the students, summatively assessed as a whole by the home institution). 20% in the 2nd semester – final performance (assessed jointly by home institution and one visiting tutor).

assessment criteria

The student will pass the course if he/she displays

- self-confidence in both solo and group improvisation
- stable concentration during the performance
- a wide range of technical skills and emotional expression
- ability to convincingly synthesize different approaches to contemporary improvisation in his/her own performance
- flexibility in responding musically to other musicians
- a sense of musical form and time

course reading material

Bailey, Derek. *Improvisation: Its Nature and Practice in Music*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1993.

Nettl, Bruno, and Melinda Russell, eds. *In the Course of Performance: Studies in the World of Musical Improvisation*.

Chicago Studies in Ethnomusicology. Chicago, Ill. London: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1998.

Pett, Anton, and Etienne Rolin. *Anto Pett's Teaching System*. Bressuire: J.M. Fuzeau, 2007.

Stevens, John, and Ollie Crooke. *Search and Reflect: A Music Workshop Handbook*. Edited by Julia Doyle. Twickenham, England: Rockscool, 2007.

Toop, David. *Into the Maelstrom: Music, Improvisation and the Dream of Freedom*. 01 edition. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016.

author of course description

International working group within the ERASMUS+ project METRIC