

Ensemble Contrechamps

Friday 28 November, 8pm
Bates Mill Blending Shed

Ensemble Contrechamps:

Susanne Peters flute +

Laurent Bruttin clarinet *

Pierre-Stéphane Meugé saxophone *

Thierry Debons percussion *+

Dorian Fretto percussion +

Coco Schwarz synth +

Anne Bassand harp +

Hans Egidi alto *+

Martina Brodbeck cello *+

Wassim Halal darbuka +

Olga Kokcharova electronics *

Christophe Egea sound engineer

Maxime Le Saux sound engineer

Olga Kokcharova (Switzerland, 1985)

Signal-to-noise ratio (new version; 2025) 35' **UK Premiere** *

In the quest for technological improvement in sound recording and reproduction devices, research into the best signal-to-noise ratio has always prioritised information over the rest, the latter term being generalised under the name “background noise”. Yet it is this remainder, containing data described as random, that conveys information that appeals to the emotions and gives some of us auditory satisfaction. And what happens when the vagaries of life, mishandling or the passage of time reverse this ratio of meaningful and random information? The signifier then becomes background noise and transforms into a single whole vibrating with the rest: mechanisms, membranes, particles, bodies, instruments, our own breath.

Wassim Halal (France, 1986)

Sang d'Angle (2024) 35' **UK Premiere** +

The darbuka imitates the davul.

The clarinet imitates the bagpipes or the zurna.

The zurna imitates the voice.

The violin imitates the voice through models of the gayda and zurna.

And king of kings, the synthesiser imitates everyone!

This piece plays with the philosophical musings of this Great Forger, who creates the illusion of reality by using each instrument and electronics to translate rhythmic patterns drawn from Darbuka phrasing and wedding music. Whether the sounds are natural or sublimated, (over)ornamented or not, the aim is to grasp a root reference point by the vertebra so that a prism of reality is revealed from the Angle.

**Produced by hcmf// supported by Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation,
the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, République et canton de Genève
and Ville de Genève**

***Signal-to-noise ratio* and *Sang d'Angle* are commissioned by Ensemble
Contrechamps**