

# Improtech @ Marseille !

*ikMarseille.ircam.fr*

## Marseille !



Improtech is both a musical festival and an interdisciplinary workshop that brings together actors of research and creation from all over the world around the question of musical improvisation in interaction with digital intelligences, in an assumed approach of human-machine co-creativity.

This unparalleled event, co-organized by Ircam and French and international partners (major universities, private institutes, museums, public institutions) has already been held with undeniable success in New York (2012), Philadelphia (2017), and Athens (2019). The edition planned for Tokyo in 2021 as part of the Season of France in Japan could not be held because of the pandemic and has been postponed.

We wanted for a long time, after the American and European connections, to hold a major edition in France, and what better city than Marseille !

Improtech @ Marseille will be held from October 22 to 24, 2022 at the Palais Carli, in the beautiful spaces of the Conservatoire National Pierre Barbizet, with satellite events in the city during the week of October 17.

## An explosive alliance between Improvisation and Digital Intelligence

Improtech is dedicated to the explosive alliance between the age-old art of improvisation and the emerging cultures of digital intelligence. It fosters the co-creative dynamics that can exist between humans and machines, and in so doing, creates new meeting grounds between people, artists and audiences of all backgrounds and levels.

Exploring the relationships between music and science, composition and improvisation, writing and performance, music and other performance arts around the argument of shared creativity between human and digital devices, Improtech has established itself as one of the major events of contemporary research and creation.

In the past, Improtech has linked the French research and creation scene to a major foreign metropolis such as New York or Athens, mixing the great masters of the improvised scene with the young artists of the most original underground scenes identified in each of the host cities.

For the first time, Improtech will be centered on a major French city: Improtech @ Marseille!

## New aesthetic and social patterns

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Improtech is a place for the emergence of new aesthetics linked to scientific and technological innovation, and to the way contemporary creators use them to install new social patterns of interaction and communication involving creative algorithms. With each new edition, Improtech allows the actors and the public to judge the great aesthetic, technological and sociological evolutions thanks to the impressive progress of digital intelligence, and in particular of Artificial Intelligence, at the service of the arts.

This is a rare opportunity for intercultural and interdisciplinary encounters at the junction of the arts and sciences between research and creative communities, revealing unique opportunities for new personal and institutional collaborations, to introduce a wide audience to new directions that they suspect but have very little opportunity to discover in a creative and playful setting.

The meeting also allows each time to reveal the eminent position of the chosen city in the history of the improvised scenes, in that of the intercultural relations and hybridizations, even creolisations, proper to the genre. There is little doubt that in terms of dynamism, youthful inspiration, cultural mixes, aesthetic generosity and solidarity, Improtech @ Marseille ! will be a summit in the Improtech series.

## On the Menu

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Improtech includes conferences, demonstrations, workshops, musical and multi-art performances (dance, media, mixed realities), installations and concerts bringing together the world's best improvising musicians in selected venues

Artists, researchers, thinkers, students, inventors, DIY (Do It Yourself) enthusiasts come to Improtech to present their work, offer demonstrations and performances, and perform on the concert stages. The public meets personalities from major international research centers and remarkable artistic figures from contemporary, jazz, rock, electronic, traditional or underground music scenes. They are introduced to many scientific and technological fields, from computer science to anthropology, from musicology to critical studies, from philosophy to artificial intelligence, from acoustics to mixed realities.

Improtech @ Marseille ! centered on the Marseille Conservatory will focus on education and pedagogy with master classes, workshops, student projects and concerts under the direction of the great invited figures.

## The framework of Improtech

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Improtech provides an exceptional platform to challenge and question individual and collective creativity, joining forces in a buzz of experimentation, teaching, performance, and exchange.

We witness the emergence of new aesthetics linked to scientific and technological innovation, and the way contemporary creators seize on it to install new social patterns of interaction and communication involving creative algorithms.

Improtech capitalizes on each edition and creates its legacy by setting up collaborations between artists and scientists and between various institutions in the partner countries. Experience shows that these collaborations are sustainable beyond the event. For example, the 5-year European research program ERC REACH brings together French, American and Japanese universities that are strongly linked to this event.

Improtech has already brought together some of the best improvisers in the world including Evan Parker, George Lewis, Steve Coleman, Bernard Lubat, Roscoe Mitchell, Geri Allen, Raphael Imbert, Vijay Iyer, Sun Ra, Steve Lehman, Rudresh Manhattappa, Bob Ostertag, Jaap Blonk, David Rosenboom, Matmos, Sylvain Luc, D.mHotep, to name a few.

Improtech was made possible thanks to the commitment of ircam, EHESS, the Onassis STEGI Center and the University of Athens, New York University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania,

Drexel University, Institut Français, Sorbonne University, Région Nouvelle Aquitaine, Princeton University, CalArts, Stanford University, Hyvibe Company, Yamaha Disklavier, Université de Bordeaux, FACE, Uzeste Musical and Compagnie Lubat.

## To learn more about Improtech

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on [ikMarseille.ircam.fr](http://ikMarseille.ircam.fr) (site in construction)

on Vimeo,

- a best-of concerts of edition 2019 in Athènes : <https://vimeo.com/428831250>
- the documentary : <https://vimeo.com/432057132>
- full concerts videos : <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6364851>
- full musician interviews : <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7276504>

## Organisation

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*Improtech @ Marseille ! 2022* is organised by

- Gérard Assayag (Research Director IRCAM),
- Marc Chemillier (Research Director EHESS)
- Raphaël Imbert (Director, Conservatoire de Marseille)

Comité d'organisation

- Vasiliki Zachari, coordination IRCAM
- Nicolas Journeau, coordination Conservatoire
- Beatrice Simonet (IFAMM) production
- Garance Pichet (Conservatoire) chargée de production
- Roseline Lansard (Conservatoire) communication
- Jacques Corrazier (Conservatoire) régisseur
- Ingénieur Son (IRCAM)
- RIM (IRCAM)
- ....

**Improtech @ Marseille !** est produit par l'Ircam et le CNRR Pierre Barbizet et reçoit déjà le soutien notamment de l'Agence Nationale de la Recherche, l'European Research Council, le CNRS, le ministère de la culture, le CNRS, l'Institut Français, Sorbonne Université, Djazz, l'EHESS, Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence, INSEAMM, IFAMM, ...

Improtech est une action du projet ERC REACH soutenu par le Conseil Européen de la Recherche dans le cadre du programme Horizon 2020 (Convention No. 883313).





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Workshop-Festival 22-24 Oct

Palais Carli

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