

Use of methodologies and techniques from non-idiomatic musical improvisation in multimodal performances

Abstract

This project investigates the possible integration of techniques used in the field of non-idiomatic improvisation - one that does not conform to the lexicon of more codified musical languages - and interdisciplinary elements borrowed from performing arts practices, multimedia, and specifically from contemporary music theatre. The goal is to speculate how to coherently and organically present improvised musical performances with a theatrical and multimodal approach.

An in-depth survey of the history of free improvisation from the late Fifties, aimed at organically recollecting the existing fragmented methodological and performative documentation (both on a national and international level), will function as groundwork for hands-on experimentation in the form of improvisation sessions: in these workshops, different approaches to improvisation will be analysed and evaluated in their strengths and weaknesses, at first in relation to the musical performative context, and secondly in their ability to integrate theatrical aspects.

The results of this practical research process will be used to attempt to formalise a pool of strategies and techniques for multimodal musical improvisation, both practical and accessible. These strategies will be showcased in public performances of improvised music and theatre.