John Santone

Professor Fishkin

Creative Musical Coding

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Behrman Show John Santone

Last Wednesday was the David Behrman show at the Issue Project Room in Brooklyn, NY. I had never been to a show like this before so this is definitely a new experience for me. I arrived promptly pretty early just to make sure I was there on time, Lachlan was outside and we ended up going into the concert together. The venue was actually really cool, it almost felt very old but I felt like that was on purpose. I could be wrong though the building could have just been old itself but the vibe that the venue gave off was very unique and I have never been to anything like it. I sat down on an aisle seat and once everybody settled in the show had begun. Professor Fishkin was accompanied by two other people for the opening act. I was kind of having a hard time of understanding what was actually happening because I couldn't really see too well over some people in front of me, but from my perspective what it did look like is Professor Fishkin and another man were using flashlights in a way to almost manipulate the sound that was coming from somebody else's machine. When somebody would raise their flashlight very high up the frequency would go faster or higher pitch, but then when they would bring it back down or to the side it would go slower in a lower pitch. The opening act was definitely shorter than David Berman's performance but I thought it was very cool. There was a brief intermission and then David and another man set up in the front of the venue. On the left there is a man who had a lot of metal instruments in order to create sound, while on the right was David Behrman with his laptop and a board. This performance was also a little hard to tell what was going on. What I could pick up from it was that due to the sounds the other man was making on the left side of the room with his tools, it would affect David Berman's code in real time. For example when he used some sort of circle tool and it almost sounded like marbles rolling around inside it, it would make the code kind of jump up to random octaves and almost arpeggiate. and another example when the men on the left go around on different sides of the venue and slam on something that almost sounded like a gong, the code would then explode and hit a higher register. After the performance was finished David Berman received a very generous applause which concluded the show. As previously mentioned I've never been to any kind of show like this before so it was really cool to see and if there's anything else like it in New York I'd definitely be interested to go see it on my own.