

# **CO2**

# Cycle de Lieder

**CO2** is a song cycle that is the result of a multifaceted international collaboration. It was conceived and composed by internationally recognized Belgian composers Patrick Defossez and Anne-Gabriel Debaecker in collaboration with the French ensemble Zellig and Canada's Janice Isabel Jackson. Rarely heard baroque and low-pitched instruments are combined with keyboards, piano, live electronics, glass singing bowls, as well as the Matthieu Chamagne's Conceptor (a suspended frame which allows gestures of the face or arms to manipulate sound), accompanying the female voice in songs that are unexpected, unorthodox, and truly otherworldly.



### **CO2 Cycle de Lieder's International Musicians**

- Janice Isabel Jackson (Canada) contemporary, experimental female voice
- Silvia Lenzi (Italy) viola da gamba, cello
- Anne-Cécile Cuniot (France) bass flute, octobass flute
- Etienne Lamaison (France) double bass clarinet
- Patrick Defossez (Belgium) piano, percussion, laptop
- Anne-Gabriel Debaecker (Belgium) electronics, electric piano, glass singing bowls
- Mathieu Chamagne (France) conceptor, image projections, sound technician

Written by well-known French surreal crime novelist, CO2 – Cycle de Lieder represents the "solitary" journey of a female voice on the verge of a metamorphosis, the virtual (and therefore digital) molting of her being into two opposing forces: that of flesh and that of data ... two beings seeking themselves and fleeing constantly. Will this solitary voice be condemned to a spectral existence? In the future, will we be ourselves become more and more foreign to our own voices?

### CO2 Cycle de Lieder will ...

- Blur the lines between new music, jazz, theatre, hard rock, and improvisation.
- Juxtapose the density of short songs with those inspired by powerful ancient prose.
- *Embrace* digital innovation while linking to traditional musical landscapes.
- *Challenge* the notion of traditional instrumentation, stage practice, interpretation, the role of the soloist, and the interconnectivity between musicians.



# CO<sub>2</sub>

# Cycle de Lieder Description

## 7 musicians will be on stage, including Mathieu Chamagne playing his Conceptor

## Movement 1) 30 to 35 min song cycle – through composed

- The audience will see the musicians through a transparent curtain giving the impression of a movie, yet with live musicians behind the screen.
- The singer will be standing in front of the Conceptor, which will transform and mutate her voice when she pushes her face into the Conceptor's frame.
- The text for this part is written by French surreal crime writer Jean-Bernard Pouy. The sung portion of the text is in the form of a haiku. The story of this half human half digital being will be spoken with musical accompaniment (in French or English

depending on the venue).

## Movement 2) 10-15 minutes

The Conceptor will be featured in a solo "exhale" /
"respite" in the silence. Manipulated sound
without any movement by the musicians.



# **Movement 3)** 30 to 35 min improv

- First: Ipads will be handed to the audience on which they can write a few poetic words/phrases which are automatically projected onto the transparent screen.
- Second: the words become musical characters and build a large graphic score which creates a template for the musicians to improvise with.
- Third: the musical characters become numeric birds ... a dream ... love flying like birds. The ultimate challenge with this drama is to say : humanity can resist ...!

# CO2 Cycle de Lieder is the brainchild of an international partnership:

- Duo Autres Voix de Piano (Belgium) represented by L'Association 2d'Lyres
- Ensemble Zellig (France)
- Vocalypse Productions (Canada)





2d'L<sub>RE</sub>

# **CO2**

# Cycle de Lieder Biographies

### L'Association 2d'Lyres

Located in Reims, France, *2d'Lyres* promotes innovative, transdisciplinary creations/productions and supports the research, creation, distribution, and production of contemporary musical works, including electroacoustic and improvised music. FOR MORE INFORMATION: <a href="https://www.2dlyres.net/carnet">www.2dlyres.net/carnet</a>

#### **Duo Autres Voix de Piano**

Duo Autres Voix de Piano is comprised of Patrick Defossez (composition, percussion, programming/laptop, piano) and Anne-Gabriel Debaecker (live electroacoustics, piano, singing bowls, tam). They are very active in the milieu of contemporary creation and jazz, promoting what they call *Confluence Music*, which combines contemporary and electroacoustic music with jazz and free improvisation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick\_Defossez">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick\_Defossez</a>

http://www.2dlyres.net/biographieDebaecker.php5

## Janice Isabel Jackson – New Music and Improvisation Vocalist

Janice Isabel Jackson has sung over 200 world premieres, including many works written specifically for her. She has performed with contemporary music ensembles and in concert halls around the world – Beijing, Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Torino, Toronto, New York, Berlin, Cape Town and more. She has appeared in countless contemporary music festivals including The November Festival (Ghent), Wien Modern (Vienna), The Proms (Amsterdam), IRCAM (Paris), Big Torino (Turin), Open Waters (Halifax) and many more. She has also performed with numerous improvisation ensembles, working with Barry Guy, Fred Frith, and others. She can be heard on many recordings and radio programs and has recently begun writing her own compositions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.janicejackson.ca

#### **Ensemble Zellig**

Ensemble Zellig was founded in 1999 by French composers Thierry Pecou and Gualtiero Dazzi. Since 2009, under artistic director Ivan Morane (former director of the Albi National Stage), the ensemble has focused on multidisciplinary projects by including the work of eminent authors, singers, poets, choreographers, and/or visual artists. The ensemble is also inspired by the dynamic of creation, with a composer in residence every year since 2009. Ensemble Zellig has performed on important stages the world over, including the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil, the CentQuatre, as well as abroad in Europe, the USA, Mexico, and Ecuador. The combination of modern, rare, and baroque instruments makes Ensemble Zellig unique in the contemporary music scene.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.zellig.fr

# Jean-Bernard Pouy (France) – author

Born in 1946, French author Jean-Bernard Pouy is an inventive and prolific surreal crime writer. He was awarded the Grand Prix of Black Humor in 2008 and is a fierce defender of the popular novel (Prix Paul Féval 1996). Compared to Jean-Patrick Manchette, who published his first novel in 1971 and opened the way for the renewal of the French Polar, Pouy belongs to the second generation of writers dedicated to this genre, the Neo-Polar. The main characters in his novels are frequently recruited from the left (in France this is often Trotskyists or Anarchists). His stories are spiked with malicious humor, they are straightforward and surprise with unusual ideas and motifs. For his crime series The Time, he was awarded the "Prix polar Michel Lebrun". At the end of the nineties, Pouy created and edits the crime series Le Poulpe, in which different authors tell stories about the same protagonists. He is the author of Spinoza Fucking Hegel (Albin Michel, 1983), We Have Burned a Saint (Gallimard, 1984), La Belle de Fontenay (Gallimard, 1992), La Pêche aux anges (Thousand and One Nights, 1997), La Farce du destin with Patrick Raynal (Les Contrebandiers éditeurs, 2004), and Nus (Fayard, 2007).

## Mathieu Chamagne (France) - musician, composer, multimedia developer: conceptor

Chamagne is a pianist who gradually migrated towards improvised music in the 1990s hile developing electroacoustic instruments that mix analogical and digital synthesizers, prepared sound objects, and computer program Max that allows for real time manipulation of data, images, and sounds. Since 2006, Chamagne has been a member of the data-processing group, GMEA (Groupe de Musique Electroacoustique d'Albi at the Centre National de Création Musicale) where he develops new interfaces for the real time control of sound synthesis and spatialization. He creates multimedia performances which combine theatre, cinema, poetry, dance, visual art, and improvised music. Through experimentation and the development of innovative/interactive devices he creates, explores, and questions the direction and role of the musical gesture in the live interpretation of electronic music, blurring the lines between composition, interpretation, and improvisation. He is famous in France for his development of the multimedia "Conceptor", a frame with built in sensors that allows musicians to control electronic and recorded sound through physical gesture. http://www.mathieuchamagne.com



Mathieu Chamagne's Multimedia Conceptor



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