

Positioning the accordion(ist) within an improvisational ecology Questioning distance and proximity within instrument- and performer's based AR

Although improvisation is seen as an agential act within a complex and dynamic system – an ecology - AR mostly questions improvisation from a performer's perspective. Developed from insights on how such an ecology works, this presentation aims to position the accordion within such an ecology through the analyses of two tunes performed by the presenter (accordion) and Ruben Drenth (trumpet). How does an improvisational ecology relate to the accordion's possibilities and (sound) qualities? Or in reverse, what instrumental characteristics should an accordionist negotiate in order to be flexible and versatile during an improvisation? On a meta-level, this presentation reflects upon the added value of viewing *improvisation* as an ecological phenomenon within a performer- and instrument-based study. How can an even more distant, non-anthropocentric approach that aims to question the improvised outcome itself, contribute to a more nuanced perspective on the performer's position within that improvisation? Additionally, drawing on Craenen's thoughts on AR as an *interruptive practice* (2024), I propose how these more distant analyses *outside-musical-time* are potential generators for - and therefore complementary to - a more proximate form of questioning *inside-musical-time* within a research methodology.



Rik Cornelissen
Leuven University, Orpheus Institute (Ghent), ArtEZ
(Arnhem)
info@rikcornelissen.com

Biography:

Rik Cornelissen (1984) is an accordionist, composer, lecturer and researcher. He studied Classical Music, Argentinian Tango, Jazz & Pop, among others with the renowned accordionist Claudio Jacomucci. He is Professor of Accordion at the Jazz & Pop department at ArtEZ University (NL) and is currently a PhD-candidate at Leuven University, associated with the Orpheus Institute.

As a performer, bandleader and sideman, Rik is active within various groups, ranging from jazz to Latin to classical music, but always including some form of improvisation. He collaborated with Bert van den Brink, Ramón Valle, Jeroen van Vliet, Oene van Geel, Teus Nobel among others.

www.rikcornelissen.com

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4c4yfXmqgxVaFhsAucw2Jl?si=8662b9c819ad40ff>