

Lingue che mancano

Rediscovering our roots through breath and sounds

This performance “Lingue che mancano” emerges from an ongoing project exploring the intersection of personal heritage, linguistic memory, and contemporary instrumental practice. At its core lies a shared experience of absence: both performers grew up with the sounds of regional languages, Corsican and Verbanese, echoing in their family contexts, yet never acquired fluency in these tongues. This research asks: how can musical practice become a site for reactivating what has been lost through artistic imagination? What does it mean to inherit a language one cannot speak? How does the body remember what the mind has forgotten?

The duo 1212 was born at the Darmstädter Ferienkurse in 2025, where initial conversations revealed this common ground of missing languages and spaces, of redefining what “home” means and what “home” sounds like. This performance presents a selection of improvisations and composed material developed through our artistic residency at Voce, in Corsica. Drawing on field recordings, archives of folk songs, and our own memories and agency, we create hybrid sonic spaces where instrumental timbre merges with vocal inflection, where traditional melodic fragments dialogue with extended techniques, and where the act of listening becomes a form of remembering.

Our methodology centres on cooperation and interdependence at multiple levels: between two performers negotiating shared and divergent histories; between contemporary instruments and the spectral presence of traditional ones, like the Corsican piovana; between active creation and receptive listening. We problematise romanticised notions of cultural retrieval, instead proposing music as a generative space where tradition and innovation are not opposed but mutually constitutive. We do not treat folk materials as static objects of preservation. Instead, we position ourselves as subjects traversed by these traditions, using contemporary improvisational tools to make audible what exists in the threshold between presence and absence, between knowing and not-knowing. This approach resonates with current discourse on artistic research as a method for addressing questions that cannot be answered through conventional academic inquiry alone.

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ALBANE TAMAGNA

Albane Tamagna is a French flutist and researcher, trained at the higher conservatories of Dijon, Paris, and Liège, where she specialized in contemporary music and mixed media performance. She collaborates with composers

and ensembles across Europe and develops transdisciplinary projects that intertwine sound research, documentary narrative, and stage performance. Her work explores notions of border, identity, and displacement, most notably through *Les Gens qui Partent*, a project carried by La Compagnie du Chant des Baleines, which she directs. A lecturer at the CRLg, she also shares her research within academic contexts. Her practice is rooted in a dual dynamic of artistic and transmission, at the intersection of instrumental performance and critical reflection.



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VITTORIA ECCLESIA

Vittoria Ecclesia is an Italian clarinetist, researcher, and pedagogue, currently Senior Scientist at the Anton Bruckner University in Linz.

She holds a doctorate in clarinet performance from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, where her award-winning dissertation focused on historical clarinets and their contemporary potential. A versatile musician, she has been a member of the Estonian National Opera Orchestra and has performed at festivals such as Verdi, Afekt, Darmstädter Ferienkurse, and the ICA New Music Weekend. Her practice weaves together research and performance, moving between historical instruments and contemporary creation, guided by a common thread: exploring the connections between heritage, identity, and new artistic forms.

The Duo – 1212

1212 is a duo born in Darmstadt from the friendship between Albane and Vittoria and from a shared commitment to research—two dimensions that feed each other and ultimately merge in their practice. From the very beginning, playing together has meant exploring, questioning,

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and confronting their heritages and trajectories. They do not approach tradition as an external object to be reshaped, but as something that passes through them, shapes them, and becomes living matter to be set in motion. With flute and clarinet in all their variations, 1212 explores hybrid forms where instrumental timbres and vocal dimensions intersect, dissolving the boundaries between heritage and invention. These breath-related instruments open a field of transformation: they invite a research that engages with voice, language, and breath, as much as with the sonic memory of territories. Their work unfolds through contemporary repertoire, free improvisation, and graphic score interpretation, which intersect with a cross-cultural dialogue rooted in their Mediterranean backgrounds (Corsican and Verbanese traditions). 1212 is not conceived as a closed project but as an open and evolving space, responsive to collaborations and resonances.

Concert recording: <https://youtu.be/vZldBKhzUC4>