

**here.here | Social Virtuosity with Eva-Maria Houben**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023, at 7.30pm**



**Live from London [IKLECTIK](#)**

**[Buy tickets](#)** - £11.50 Advance / £13 OTD – Students / Concs £7 advance / £8 OTD

**With Lara Agar (violin), Angharad Davies (violin), Isidora Edwards (cello), Finn Froome-Lewis (cello), Eva Maria Houben (piano), Dominic Lash (double bass), Hannah Marshall (cello), Artur Vidal (saxophone)**

**Programme**

3 new works written by Eva-Maria Houben for Artur Vidal, Dominic Lash and their friends.

*dreaming legends* – for saxophone (2019) for Artur Vidal

*loose ties* – originally for saxophone and piano (2022) for Artur Vidal and friends

*the green that is almost a yellow* – for strings (2022) for Dominic Lash and friends

followed by a discussion led by David Grundy and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé

*This is the 12<sup>th</sup> iteration of the here.here concerts series after Concept ventriloquy | Cage, Ellis, Oliveros, Reage (May 2022), Space ventriloquy | Mike McEvoy, Plangency, Sea of Cables (March 2022), Seamus Cater & Alexander J. Ellis (February 2022), Parkinson Saunders (May 2021), Voice & Electronics with Sadd, Moore, Waeckerlé and Ziv (April 2021), Greg Caffrey (IE, March 2021), Marie Cécile Reber (CH, Feb 2020), Gildas Quartet (UK, Oct 2019), Marcus Kaiser (DE, May 2019), Stefan Thut (CH, April 2019), Jessica Aslan and Emma Lloyd (UK, March 2019).*

**Eva-Maria Houben** will also be playing at St James Garlickhythe (EC4V 2AF) on Friday 24th February 2023 (19h). Eva-Maria Houben (organ), Huw Morgan (piano/organ), Artur Vidal (alto saxophone). <https://www.stjamesgarlickhythe.org/>

Compositional and improvisation freedoms are recurring themes in our series. Often put in opposition against one-other, yet both tend to prioritise instrumental virtuosity over the socio-politico-environmental dynamics at play between all involved in a musical situation: composer, players, listeners, curators, tech team, funders.

'Social virtuosity', a term coined by legendary vocalist and founder of FIG (Feminist Improvising Group) **Maggie Nicols** to denote the capacity for effective interpersonal interaction through music making, is what we are focusing on for the three concerts of this 5<sup>th</sup> season. "FIG, an international free improvising avant-garde jazz and experimental music ensemble formed in London in 1977, was challenging "technological elitism" and fixed notions of "musical competency" and this was often dismissed by male musicians" (Smith, J.D. 2004). Maggie Nicols will join composer and oboe player **Maureen Wolloshin** (PhD researcher at UCA) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> concert of the series (29<sup>th</sup> March 2023). The final concert (26<sup>th</sup> April 2023) will feature members of the seminal **London Improvisation Workshop** and **Eddie Prevost** (founder of AMM fame), showcasing some of the unique improvising group strategies developed over the twenty two years of the workshop existence.

Our guest for this first concert is composer, pianist and organist **Eva-Maria Houben** (DE) the author of *Musical Practice as a Form of Life: How Making Music Can be Meaningful and Real* (Music and Sound Culture, 2019) in which she dwells on a practice of music which is relational and social. We have chosen three new works of hers that have all been written for and addressed to two of her UK based friends - **Artur Vidal** and **Dominic Lash** - and their friends. Three works that leave ample scope for personal interpretation and mutual agency between players, listeners, and the work.

### **dreaming legends – for saxophone (2019)** *with Artur Vidal (saxophone)*

"The score tells a certain story: "I had a dream – and I am still dreaming. we are all saints, living in the heaven on earth – full of awe, full of wonder; full of love, full of friendship." – concluding with a quotation: "a dream you dream alone is only a dream, but a dream we dream together is reality." (Yoko Ono). The saxophone becomes a voice, telling us that a solo piece can become a narration, an invitation, a scream, a laughter, a hug, a gentle gesture. In *Musical Practice* a solo player is never alone, opening up the performance space for the world and for everyday life." (Eva-Maria Houben)

### **loose ties – originally for saxophone and piano (2022)** *With Eva Maria Houben (piano), Artur Vidal (saxophone)*

"The *Musical Practice* in this duo: both performers play for themselves, living in their own spaces, in their own times. They bring into being different forms of interaction – not a mere addition of two activities but a mutual interfusion. Maybe the piano sometimes gives shelter to the wind instrument, protecting the free unfolding of its sounds." (Eva-Maria Houben)

### **the green that is almost a yellow – for strings (2022)**

*With Lara Agar (violin), Angharad Davies (violin), Isidora Edwards (cello), Finn Froome-Lewis (cello), Dominic Lash (double bass), Hannah Marshall (cello)*

For Erik Carlson, Greg Stuart, Matt Kline, Damon Smith, Dominic Lash, Max Maxelon, Koen Nutters, Johnny Chang, Jordan Dykstra, Ernesto Rodrigues, Guilherme Rodrigues, Eberhard Maldfeld, Laura Cetilia, Morgan Evans-Weiler – and other friends playing strings

"Again, the score tells a story inviting to the *Musical Practice* of the piece: "a magician leads us on a path into silence, reminding us of the enchantment that nature throws over those who fall under its charms. a tune might arise whose magic consists in this, that it does not know anything and not tell anything. reflections and reverberations..."

The piece was composed in view of the overwhelming fresh green in Spring: a new awakening of life! The same notes obviously do not mean the identical: Due to the simultaneity of the seemingly same notes vibrations and resonances come into being. " (Eva Maria Houben)

## Performers

**Eva-Maria Houben** is a German composer, organist, pianist and musicologist. Her compositions are performed widely and are published by "edition wandelweiser". They include works for the organ, piano, clarinet, trombone, violoncello and other solo instruments, works for voice and piano, for wind and chamber ensembles, for orchestra and for choir. CDs have also been released by edition wandelweiser records, Another Timbre, Irritable Hedgehog, Makro. International performances include California Institute of the Arts Los Angeles, Southbank Center London, Orgelpark Amsterdam, Klangraum Düsseldorf. Between 1993-2021 she was a professor at "Institut für Musik und Musikwissenschaft" university in Dortmund, with both music theory and contemporary music as her focus studies. [www.evamariahouben.de](http://www.evamariahouben.de)

**Lara Agar** is a composer and violinist whose music blends electronic soundscapes and sampled material with traditional acoustic and classical instruments. Taking a home grown and intuitive approach, Lara's interests lie in the accidental, the found, indeterminacy, going with mistakes, experimental and collaborative music making and so on... <https://laraagar.com>

**Angharad Davies** is a Welsh violinist working with free-improvisation, composition and performance. Her approach to sound involves attentive listening and exploring beyond the sonic confines of her instrument, her classical training and performance expectation. She has released records on Absinth Records, Another Timbre, Potlatch and Confrontrecords. <https://www.angharaddavies.com>

**Isidora Edwards** is a Chilean cellist, composer and improviser, currently a PhD Researcher in Music at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is exploring the intersection between performativity, materiality and imagination from a feminist perspective. Isidora has taken part in festivals of contemporary and experimental music worldwide, playing solo or with various ensembles. <https://www.isidoraedwards.com>

**Finn Froome-Lewis** is an electronic artist and cellist and a final year Music & Sound Production BA undergraduate at UCA Farnham. He works in and around the genres of Techno, Ambient and other forms of electronica, while often allowing more acoustic influences to show themselves. Finn also enjoys playing live, creating engaging and largely improvised works on the spot.

**David Grundy** is a poet and scholar living in London. He co-runs the poetry press and reading series Materials/Materialien and is the author of *Present Continuous* (Pamenar Press, 2022) and *A Black Arts Poetry Machine: Amiri Baraka and the Umbra Poets* (Bloomsbury, 2019), and is currently working on critical books on poetry and music.

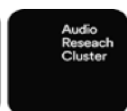
**Dominic Lash** is a bassist, guitarist and composer active in improvised and experimental music. He is also a film theorist. His latest release is a guitar and piano duo with Pat Thomas, *New Oxford Brevity*, released on his own label, Spoonhunt. <http://dominiclash.blogspot.com>

**Hannah Marshall** a cellist, sound designer and improviser who is continuing to extract, invent, and exorcize as many sounds and emotional qualities from her instrument as she can, and who also works with composition and structures, making recordings, sound for theatre and more recently original short films and drawings. She has been a regular member of Alexander Hawkins' Ensembles and has toured in Europe and South America with Luc Ex and Vryan Weston's ensembles – SOL 6 & 12 <http://www.hannahmarshall.net>

**Artur Vidal** is a London based and Spanish-born saxophone player who grew up in Paris where he studied music, philosophy and history of art. His work involves field recordings, sound walks, dance and improvisation. He has been doing academic research on improvised music and environmental sounds and has become a certified teacher of Pauline Oliveros *Deep Listening* practice. He has published two collections of text scores: *The Hum in the Valley* (2021) and *Friendly Algorithms* (2018). <https://arturvidal.com>

## here.here concert series

*A collaboration between bookRoom and the Audio Research Cluster at UCA Farnham, curated by Emmanuelle Waeckerlé and Harry Whalley, around their common research in extended, textual, visual, gestural and object scores and ways to experience technology in text / music / film / performances. supported by UCA research fund.*



<https://www.audio-research.com>

[www.thebookroom.net](http://www.thebookroom.net)

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