



## BERLIN SOLO IMPRO

### Music Festival for Solo Improvisation

28. – 30. September 2021  
Acker Stadt Palast, Berlin

In context of the  
„Month of Contemporary Music“

There are only very few music festivals entirely devoted to solo improvisation. In the city of Berlin, curator *Volker Meitz* succeeded to establish an annual forum for this special and intimate format of musical performance, this year marking the fourth edition. The festival takes place in context of the local *Monat der zeitgenössischen Musik* („month of contemporary music“) framework.

The venue, Acker Stadt Palast, is a very special place in Berlin: Located in the now posh city centre, it still breathes the atmosphere of the early 1990's, when the Berlin Wall had just come down. Sustained by a non-profit foundation, it has retained the flair of squat buildings, patina and makeshift culture that was not least a breeding ground to the internationally renowned *Echtzeitmusik* movement – protagonists of which appear at the festival, too.

On **three days**, altogether **15 musicians** will be performing, stemming from diverse musical universes. Next to drawing on an abundance of artists from the **local** community which Berlin is famous for, Volker Meitz also invited **national and international** improvisers, such as cellist Fred Lonberg-Holm from the USA, Danish trombone player Marie Bertel and Polish accordionist Zbigniew Chojnacki. From different parts of Germany, John Eckhardt (bass), John-Dennis Renken (trumpet) and Enrico Sartori (clarinets) will be appearing. Each night, three Berlin based artists will be meeting one national and international performer each.

The evenings will kick off with a short **podium discussion** by all five musicians, after which they will perform solo for 20 minutes each. As a contrast, the finale features a **collective** improvisation, with the five artists reacting to one another, while they previously had been alone with themselves and the audience. Hence we get to know different faces of the musicians, which makes for an entertaining and diverse experience.

The line-up spans **free jazz, contemporary and electronic music** artists, partly falling under the umbrella term of the aforementioned *Echtzeitmusik* („real time music“), playing acoustic, amplified or purely electronic instruments – down to Nicolas Wiese who is listed simply under „samples & feedback“. Next to old stagers of solo improvisation by the likes of Andrea Parkins or Marc Schmolling, we will have musicians performing solo for the very first time, such as saxophone player Philipp Gropper. Thus, we can expect three suspenseful everything between melodious harmony and experimental noise.

## BERLIN SOLO IMPRO – Music Festival for Solo-Improvisation

**Date:** Tuesday 28. September – Thursday 30. September  
**Venue:** Acker Stadt Palast, Ackerstraße 169 /170, 10115 Berlin / Germany  
[www.ackerstadtpalast.de](http://www.ackerstadtpalast.de)  
**Tickets:** 15€ / 10€  
**Pre-sales:** <https://t.rausgegangen.de/tickets/shop/acker-stadt-palast-1>  
N.B. – reduced capacity due to Covid-19. Please check festival website for current regulations regarding ticket sales and admission!

**Start:** 19:30 (7:30 pm) // Doors: 19:00h (7pm)  
**Sequence:** Podium discussion / 5 solo performances (20 min ea.) / collective finale

**LINE-UP**  
**Tuesday 28.9.**  
IDO BUKELMAN – acoustic guitar, banjo  
FRANK GRATKOWSKI – alto saxophone  
ANDREA PARKINS – amplified objects, electronics  
JOHN ECKHARDT (Hamburg) – electric bass, electronics  
MARIA BERTEL (DK) – amplified trombone

**Wednesday 29.9.**  
MEINRAD KNEER – double bass  
LIZ ALLBEE – trumpet, electronics  
NICOLAS WIESE – samples & feedback  
ENRICO SARTORI (Munich) – clarinets  
ZBIGNIEW CHOJNACKI (PL) – accordion, electronics

**Thursday 30.9.**  
RUDI FISCHERLEHNER – drums  
JOHN-DENNIS RENKEN (Essen) – trumpet, electronics  
MARC SCHMOLLING – piano  
JULIA REIDY – guitar, electronics  
FRED LONBERG-HOLM (USA) – cello

**Web:** [www.berlin-solo-impro.de](http://www.berlin-solo-impro.de)  
incl. press download area

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BerlinSoloImpro](https://www.facebook.com/BerlinSoloImpro)

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Kindly supported by the Berlin Senate Administration for Culture and Europe

Senatsverwaltung  
für Kultur und Europa

be-  
min Berlin

Monat der  
zeitgenössischen  
Musik

inm  
initiative neue musik berlin e.V.

## SHORT VERSION

One of the very few festivals worldwide that are devoted to solo improvisation. 15 artists on three days, spanning jazz, contemporary and electronic music. Evenings will kick off with short podium discussions by all five musicians, after which they will perform solo for 20 minutes each. As a contrast, the finale features a **collective** improvisation by all five performers together. Each night, three Berlin based artists will be meeting one national and international performer each.

### NB. the small change in the original line-up:

PHILIPP GROPPER (tenor saxophone) had to postpone his performance until next year. With FRANK GRATKOWSKY (alto saxophone) taking his place, we'll have more than a worthy substitute!