

Beat: Music

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF EXPLORATORY MUSIC

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USPA NEWS - London International Festival of Exploratory Music (LIFEM) is a festival of inspiring and boundary-expanding music explorations committed to the exciting world of life and music of all sorts of genres and origins...

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About Exploratory Music, it is a term coined by Miguel Santos back in 2000 when he started the famous Exploratory Music From Portugal CD series as well as when he started the Festival Atlantic Waves, Exploratory Music From Portugal. At the time, most people questioned what was Exploratory Music. These days it is a common jargon...

This year's event kicks off with the much-anticipated return of acclaimed Flemish composer and pianist Wim Mertens, whose last UK appearance was a sell-out show five years ago at Kings Place (as part of LIFEM). Bruno Sanfilippo, Sylvain Chauveau and Greg Haines complete the international line-up :

- WIM MERTENS is a Flemish Belgian minimalist classical composer whose style employs mesmerizing minimalist techniques with a sense of the romantic that appeals to both serious music aficionados and more mainstream listeners.

He has composed many pieces in different formats, from short, accessible songs or Lieder to magnanimous and complex three and four parts cycles, and for different settings: from piano solo to chamber music ensembles and symphonic orchestra. He has released more than 60 albums and his new studio album, Charaktersketch, was released in April 2015.

- SYLVAIN CHAUVEAU has made solo records on labels such as FatCat, Type, Les Disques du Soleil et de l'Acier, and Brocoli: very minimal compositions for acoustic instruments, electronics and vocals.

He runs the labels Onement, whose aim is to release one-copy vinyl records and I Will Play This Song Once Again Records where musicians have to re-record their songs for each buyer. He composed You Will Leave No Mark on the Winter Snow whose duration is seven years, with extremely long silences inside.

- BRUNO SANFILIPPO is a classically trained musician and composer who has been creating music for more than 20 years. His focus alternates between the exploration of minimalist piano concepts, and contemporary hybrids of acoustic and electronic music.

During the last few years, he has made soundtracks for feature films. He has performed live & multimedia events at different stages and festivals. Live performances usually consist of performing improvisations on piano solo, or with strings, electronic/laptop.

He has collaborated on numerous projects with such noted artists as Mathias Grassow, Max Corbacho, Marsen Jules and Alio Die.

- British born and Berlin based composer GREG HAINES has carved out an intensely beautiful corner in the vast and ever-growing musical world. He has surprised music lovers around the globe with his unique and overtly personal approach to creating and performing a very patient and contemplative music.

His music has been compared to Arvo Pärt, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Deathprod, Gavin Bryars and many more in the area of contemporary classical and electro-acoustic music.

- Greg Haines, Sunday, 8 November 2015, 7:30pm

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