

sound journey: eartrip compilation # 1

1. The Cambridge Free Improvisation Society - Michaelhouse (9:22)

Jo Davis (flute) David Grundy (piano, recorder) Daniel Larwood (xaphoon). Live at The Moving Tone Sessions, Michaelhouse Centre, Cambridge (14/11/2008). Recorded by Peter Rice. With thanks to Anne Ryan.

2. Cambridge Improvisation No. 2c (30/1/09) (3:22)

David Curington (miscellaneous objects).

3. I-C-E (The Improvising Clarinet Ensemble) - Green Tea and Acid (3:26)

Sandy Kindness, Rick Jensen, Noel Taylor, Tara Stuckey, Jerry Wogens

4. Skarabee - ghostly (3:53)

Stuart Chalmers (guitar, kalimba, electronics)

5. Graham Mackeachen - ghosts before breakfast (2:19)

Graham Mackeachen (double-bass, electronics)

6. Stet Lab - Has 'It' Happened? (9:44)

Bruce Coates (saxophones) Sarah O'Halloran (voice & printed materials) Neil O'Loughlen (double-bass) Han-earl Park (guitar). Live at Stet Lab, Cork, (09/12/2008). Released under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 Unported License

7. Iliia Belorukov - Alto Sax Improvisation (6:10)

Iliia Belorukov (alto sax)

8. Dominic Lash - Hatch (5:56)

Dominic Lash (double-bass). Recorded by Bruno Guastalla at The Lodge, Oxford, 15th January 2009

9. Mark Anthony Whiteford - radio breath (10:00)

Mark Anthony Whiteford (alto sax, radios, tapes). Excerpt from a longer improvisation recorded in Bristol, 1st December 2008.

10. Styles J. Kauphmann - acoustic improvisation: solo voice (excerpt) (9:58)

Recorded at Saint Mark's Church, London, 12th July 2008

11. Alexander Hawkins - Isfahan (9:08)

Alexander Hawkins (piano). Home recording (rehearsal) from October 2008.

A BRIEF NOTE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first 'eartrip' compilation album. Having presented so much writing about music in the pages of the magazine, I thought that it was only fair to present an audible sampling of the many varied kinds of sonic activity that are going on in what, if it is a 'field', is very much an open one along Olsonesque lines, rather than one enclosed by hedges or fences. No attempt is made to be comprehensive: on this course you plot your own journey, travelling from Cambridge to Cork to St Petersburg.

Straight in with piano/flute fury, a xaphoon trying to unmake itself into a saxophone (Cambridge Free Improvisaton Society). Gives way to tentative chiming steps, sounds that could hesitate into a slow, punctuating march down a path of silence (David Curington); to slow dancing clarinets in elegant unison moan (I-C-E); then crackle and ghost hiss repeating in lines of static on unwatched TVs, dumped in urban mountains, rubbish heaps. The fuzzy clarity of decay, looped endlessly (Skarabee). More ghosts, the rumbling hunger of distant calling children (Graham Mackeachan). Scene shifts to a world where jazz can be reconfigured into new spaces; saxophone and guitar, fragmented discourse as a voice recites (Stet Lab). A man alone, his saxophone once more inventing jazz in a conversation with his mute companion silence (Ilia Belorukov). Another man alone, vibrating bass into shuddering, or lowing as a cow heard through the wrong end of sonic binoculars; dying, twitching woodpecker scrap (Dominic Lash). Then trapped inside machine, radio modulation signals emptiness, reflects and defies it. Breathes through the waves - the radio waves, the air waves? (Mark Anthony Whiteford) Wavers on air, voices in and round the acoustics, emergence to pitched purity and lowing chant (Styles Kauphmann). Rumbles cavernous, more than just picture-painting, chiming signals it, the uncertain certainty of melody: 'Isfahan' without Johnny Hodges, cool yearning, flushed with drained longing (Alexander Hawkins).

David Grundy

Musicians and Groups Featured on 'sound journey'

Ilia Belorukov is a saxophonist and flautist from Saint-Petersburg, Russia, working in the realms of free improvisation, free-jazz, noise and electroacoustic music. Many of his recordings, solo and as a member of the Totalitarian Musical Sect (TMS), Dots & Lines, DaDazu & Wozzeck, are freely available online. More information can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/belorukov>

The Cambridge Free Improvisation Society (CFIS) is a collective of freely improvising musicians (mainly students at Cambridge University) who have been meeting for private sessions and concert performances during the past three years. Recordings of most sessions are available at <http://cambridgeimprovisation.wordpress.com>.

Stuart Chalmers (Skarabee) works with guitar loops/ electronics/ preparations/ glockenspiel/ kalimba/ sansula to create hesitant, delicate improvised soundscapes. Having become involved with the Bristol free improvisation scene, he is now based in Warwick. The EP 'Guitar Works' 1 is available for download from <http://www.ivo-multimedia.com/mp3/skarabee/guitar%20works%201/> .

David Curington plays oboe, cor-anglais, and piano. As an undergraduate, he has been active on the Cambridge music scene, and a number of his compositions have been performed in concerts there. His website is <http://www.davidcurington.com/>

Alexander Hawkins is emerging as one of the most interesting young pianists in the UK jazz and free improvisation scene. Highlights of his career so far include recordings with the groups Barkingside and The Convergence Quartet, performances with Evan Parker and Lol Coxhill, and continuing involvement in the Oxford Improvisers. www.alexanderhawkins.com

I-C-E (Improvising Clarinet Ensemble) is a quintet of London-based improvisers (Sandy Kindness, Noel Taylor, Jerry Wogens, Tara Stuckley, and Rick Jensen), originally deriving from the improbable number of clarinet players who attend Eddie Prevost's workshop at the Welsh Chapel, Southwark, London. All of its members are active with other bands and projects within the London improvisation scene. <http://www.myspace.com/icesounds>

Dominic Lash is one of the busiest bass on the improv scene, in the UK and beyond. Recent highlights include playing with Tony Conrad, touring with Steve Reid, and an ensemble performance of the composition/ improvisation 'Representations' at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. <http://www.dominiclash.co.uk>

Styles J. Kaupmann is a clarinetist, vocalist and violinist. Since 2006, he has performed a series of solo 'acoustic improvisations' in, among other places, Cambridge, Oxford, London and Norwich. The series comes to an end with a concert in Berlin in May 2009. More information is provided at: <http://stylesjkaupmann.org>

Stet Lab is a monthly series of improvisational experimentation taking place in Cork, Ireland, curated by Han-Earl Park. Visiting musicians have included saxophonists Bruce Coates and Paul Dunmall, pianist Mike Hurley, and drummer Mark Sanders. <http://www.busterandfriends.com/stet>

Graham Mackeachan is a bass-player who has been involved in the Bristol improvised scene and now lives in London. More solo material can be heard at <http://2009solos.multiply.com>

Mark Anthony Whiteford, who also writes for this magazine, has been part of the Bristol free improvisation scene for a number of years. He has recently initiated the '2009 solos project', which can be found at <http://2009solos.multiply.com>

Special thanks to all the above musicians who invested their time in providing recordings for this compilation album.