



Franziska Baumann, vocalist, composer-performer, improviser, sound artist

The Hidden Joys of Vocal Expansion

Solo concert for voice, sensor live electronic & ML-tools

"The Hidden Joys of Vocal Expansion" is a solo concert by Swiss artist Franziska Baumann in which she not only combines her voice with gesture-controlled live electronics, but also explores the use of machine learning to create interactive and hidden agents.

The performance explores the intersection of poetry and high-intensity vocal sound, pushing the boundaries between conventional and new immersive compositional territory, enveloping both the stage and the audience. "The Hidden Joys of Vocal Expansion" is a captivating journey through vocal landscapes, challenging listeners to risk new cultural listening habits. Baumann's unique work transcends time, evokes emotional memories and promises to redefine the boundaries of vocal exploration.

Keywords

1. Contemporary Vocal Art Practices
2. Performing Gestural Live Electronic Music
3. Composing with ML Tools & Spatialisation

Videos solo

The Echo I Touch, Norway 2020

<http://www.franziskabaumann.ch/de/solos/echoitouch>

Berne-Switzerland on the highest building, 2017

<http://www.franziskabaumann.ch/en/solos/gravity>

New Zealand 2016

<http://www.franziskabaumann.ch/en/solos/terrain>

ARTIST'S PRESENTATION & TALK

During the artist talk, Franziska Baumann will give an insight into her artistic practice, including extended vocal techniques, live processing with her SensorGlove and the implementation of ML tools complemented by demonstrations. The talk will provide ample opportunity for questions and discussion with the artist.

book publication: *Embodied Human-Computer Interaction in Vocal Music Performance*,¹



Photos: Helena Roig, Den Haag 2023

MASTERCLASSES

Franziska Baumann has nearly 20 years of teaching experience at the Berne University of Music, Switzerland and as a visiting professor at various universities and conferences. She has developed a wide range of methods for uncovering creative potential and reflecting on it with a high level of competence so that practitioners can integrate methods and practices into their own artistic work.

- **Instant Composing – Free Improvisation (practical)**
Methods of linking inner imagination (composer's authorship), simultaneous performance (interpretation) and listening virtuosity (meaningful interaction). The course enhances the creative flow of playing improvised music combined with a sense of one's inner purpose, methods and structures. For composers, singers, instrumentalists, performers, and sound artists.
- **VOXLaboratory (practical)**
Insights into a multi-vocal approach with extended techniques and vocal performative skills. Exploring sounds and noises, melodies, yodelling, language and the unexpected is part of the musical process. Improvisational techniques based on modules and ideas will lead to group performances to explore and uncover spheres of the human voice in musical perception and in a scenic context. For students interested in working with their voice: singers, instrumentalists, composers, performers, actors, dancers, and sound artists.
- **Composition – Performance (reflective)**
Presentation, discussion and reflection of student projects in a group situation. Students reflect on their work in a stimulating environment. Suggestions and criticism sharpen their artistic intentions and make them sensually perceptible. For composers, sound artists, and composer-performers.

¹ Book Publication, Springer London, Computational Serie, 2023

In her book publication, Franziska Baumann offers a practice-oriented insight into embodied HCI in live music performance with a focus on voice. She explores a creative framework for the dynamic interaction between mapping strategies and meaning potentials.

ABOUT

Franziska Baumann is an award-winning Swiss singer, improviser, composer, and sound artist. A pioneer of gestural live electronics, she creates original, moving and unique concert experiences that transcend stylistic concepts. She has toured extensively in Europe, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Belarus and South Korea. Her performances range from small concerts in clubs and galleries to major multi-media works in theatres, concert halls and selected indoor and outdoor spaces and locations. In addition to her performance work, she has a growing portfolio of vocal productions including *Liquid Souls* (Donaueschinger Musiktage 2011), *Fictions* (2012), *Interzones* (CapeTown 2014), *NOMAD-X* (Saarbrücken/Warsaw 2015), *Gravity Pleasures* (pakt-Festival Bern 2017), *Das Raunen der Dinge* (Musikfestival Bern 2019), *Hic Dracones Sunt* (Musikfestival Bern 2024). She has composed for various ensembles such as the NEC (Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain) and radio drama music for Radio DRS 2.

Since 2006 she has been teaching composition and improvisation, contemporary vocal performance and live electronics at the Hochschule der Künste Bern HKB. She has been a guest lecturer at various universities and was Alex Nowitz's doctoral examiner at the Royal University of Music in Stockholm in 2018/19.

She has published in research projects such as "Interfaces in Live Performances", "Voice as a Musical-Performative Phenomenon, Potentials of the Musical in Linguistic Context". Her work has been published by Stefan Drees, Pieter Verstraete, Jenny Schroedl, Dr Juliane Klein, Dr Craig Vear and others. She was a team member of the Swiss national funded research projects "Klang (ohne Körper)" (2007/08) and "Sprechende Hände" (2009/10). She published her first book *Embodied Human-Computer Interaction in Vocal Music Performance* (Springer London 2023).

Franziska Baumann has received numerous awards and prizes, including the Young Composers Award Switzerland (1994), the Bern Music Prize (2008), Artist's Residencies in South Africa (2014) & Poschiavo (2016), ICST Artist's Residency Zurich (2017/18), Winner of the Bourse Entr'acte (2019), Winner of the Landis & Gyr 6-month Residency London (2022).

<https://www.hkb.bfh.ch/en/about-hkb/people/olkujekiwr4m/>

<http://www.franziskabaumann.ch/en/>

www.baumann-brieske.net

