

institut für elektronische musik und akustik



# Open CUBE

Stephane Ginsburg und Alec Hall



Donnerstag, 16.03.2023, 18:00 Uhr, IEM CUBE, Inffeldgasse 10/3, 8010 Graz

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Elektronischer Musik und Akustik – GesFEMA

## Lecture

The Speaking Pianist project is an ongoing, internationally collaborative effort between a select number of both composers and performers. Pianist Stephane Ginsburgh, one of the key figures in the endeavor, along with composer Alec Hall, will discuss the origins of the concept, as well as how storytelling, musical gesture, affect, and other so-called extra-musical aspects are interwoven to create new works with expansive creative visions.

## Concert Program

### Jonathan Harvey

"Tombeau de Messiaen" for piano and tape (1994)

### Frederic Rzewski

"Dear Diary" for speaking pianist (2014)

1. Stuporman
2. Names
3. No Good
4. Samson
5. Thank you

### Joanna Bailie

"Artificial Environment 8" for piano and tape (2012-13)

### Alec Hall

"A Dog is a Machine for Loving" (2016-17)

## 'A dog is a machine for loving'

In 2015 I wrote Zoopoetics, a work for chamber ensemble and tape. The term was first employed by Jacques Derrida in his 1997 text, *The Animal that Therefore I am*, referring casually to "[Franz] Kafka's vast zoopoetics". A subsequent definition of the term by Aaron Moe, in his 2014 book on the subject, calls zoopoetics "the process of discovering innovative breakthroughs in form through an attentiveness to another species' bodily

poiesis.” This work, for solo piano and tape, is an expansion of these new aesthetic forms from my recent explorations, as well as an artistic response to Donna Haraway’s writing on dogs.

The Companion Species Manifesto “is about the implosion of nature and culture in the joint lives of dogs and people, who are bonded in ‘significant otherness.’ In all their historical complexity, Donna Haraway tells us, dogs matter. They are not just surrogates for theory, she says; they are not here just to think with. Neither are they just an alibi for other themes; dogs are fleshly material-semiotic presences in the body of techno-science. They are here to live with. Partners in the crime of human evolution, they are in the garden from the get-go, wily as Coyote.”

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**Stephane Ginsburg** has performed as a soloist all over the world in numerous international festivals. A tireless surveyor of the repertoire but also an explorer of new instrumental and vocal combinations, he very early devoted himself to contemporary music while developing a vast classical repertoire. He has collaborated with many composers such as Frederic Rzewski, Philippe Boesmans, Alec Hall, Matthew Shlomowitz, Stefan Prins, Jean-Luc Fafchamps, James Tenney and choreographers such as Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. He has recorded a critically acclaimed album with Prokofiev's complete Piano Sonatas and some 15 other albums for Sub Rosa, Cypres, World Edition and Naxos. He holds a Master in Music and studied piano with Paul Badura-Skoda, Jerome Lowenthal, Vitaly Margulis and Claude Helffer. He also holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy of science and a Doctorate in Arts. Ginsburgh is a professor of piano at the Haute École de Musique de Genève. [www.ginsburgh.net](http://www.ginsburgh.net)

**Alec Hall** lives and works in New York City as an independent composer. Through samples, field recordings and instrumental performance, his sonic practice engages both conceptually and aesthetically with contemporary topics, such as labor conditions in China, environmental destruction in Canada, state violence in America, and animal cognition. The result is a sweeping body of work that crosses traditional boundaries, including chamber music, orchestral compositions, opera, kinectic installations, and intermedia pieces. He has had works performed by the Bozzini Quartet, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ensemble Dal Niente, Ensemble Proton Bern, Talea Ensemble, Ensemble SurPlus, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, the JACK Quartet, ICE,

Either/OR, TAK, Wet Ink, Continuum, Ekmeles, Schallfeld and the Mivos Quartet as well as by soloists Patrick Higgins, Séverine Ballon, and Stephane Ginsburgh, among others. Hall is the co-founder of Qubit and currently serves as an artistic director. Support for his work has come from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Fromm Foundation, Arts Council Norway, NYSCA, the French American Cultural Exchange and New Music USA. Major awards include a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2019 Jules Léger Prize and a 2020 Land Steiermark Artist-in-Residence. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Columbia University.

## **Open CUBE – Kalendarium**

**06.04.2023 | 18h00** – CUBE Lecture: Speculative Sound Synthesis

Vortragende: David Pirrò, Ji Youn Kang, Luc Döbereiner

**20.06.2023 | 14h00** – CUBE Lecture: Sinn und Präsenz in konkreter Musik,

**18h00** – Open CUBE: PHENOMENON

Vortragender: Thomas Gerwin

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Details zur Open CUBE Konzertreihe unter:

<https://iem.kug.ac.at/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungsreihen/open-cube-cube-lecture/>