



Sunday 23 October, 5 p.m.

Introspectio: in the Frenzy of Minimalism

Mario Batkovic



Accordion, electronic music *Mario Batkovic*

We listen to an orchestra which only comprises one instrument: Mario Batkovic on the accordion. Mario Batkovic's music has an extraordinary impact, and is able to engage with anyone. Batkovic has pursued a new minimal style to which he can apply his harmonic musical expertise and his talent for improvisation. Creating recurring patterns featuring bold arcs of tension, he stratifies his chords into hymn-like cathedrals of sound. Sometimes, the sound is orchestral, collapsing again the next moment. Philip Glass and Steve Reich come to mind, here combined with a modern environment. Batkovic's musical territory is somewhat dark, but through the darkness, refreshing moments and sound colours continually flare up.

Mario Batkovic

By mixing classical and contemporary sounds, Mario Batkovic tries to explore the sound possibilities of the accordion, with no effects or loops, but rather through a symbiotic mutualistic relationship between man and instrument. Challenging, hypnotic and grandiose; Batkovic's symphonic vision is unique and has been very widely acclaimed by critics, including Rolling Stone magazine, which included his self-produced debut album in the Top 10 of the "Best Albums Before 2017". His recent album 'INTROSPECTIO' is an exploration on society and the meaning of sound. Batkovic questions the place of sound, clichés and prejudices, his accordion taking listeners on a journey through infinite sound universes.

After studying music at HdK in Bern, for a long time Mario Batkovic was in search of a language for his own instrument. This has also to do with his roots. His own rhythm section always accompanies him, with its drums, buttons, keys and the raspy-pumping bellows. "It's all together," says Mario Batkovic in his Bern basement studio. "Classical music, ambient, metal, minimal. I start to get interested when the things I'm used to sound different".

In fact, as a child, he wanted an electric guitar, but the only instrument available in his village was an accordion. Of all things, the accordion could never be missing at a wedding, funeral or a drunken country

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fete! Mario Batkovic defines his relationship with the instrument as a "forced marriage". A happy marriage, certainly, but - like any marriage after many years - not always without conflict. "I have the ability to remember music very well," he says. He was especially fascinated by its pitches, in which he would lose himself. Sometimes, a fifth was enough, which he would play for hours while a whole orchestra was forming inside his head. As well as his performing activity, Batkovic has composed music for movies and video games, as well as for the fashion house Chanel. In the meantime, he only holds concerts in large halls.

INFORMATIONS

Reservation +41 (0)79 646 16 14

Online: www.teatrosanmaterno.ch

Tickets

Fr. 25.- (Fr. 20.- students, AVS, member of Associazione e-venti culturali, Club Rete Due and participants to the Circolo Teatri del Locarnese Girino; free entry young people until 16 years old and journalists Teatro San Materno is accessible to wheelchairs (non-electric) and people with disabilities