



BERLIN SOLO IMPRO

Musik-Festival for Solo Improvisation

In context of the *Monat der Zeitgenössischen Musik*

16. – 18. September 2025
Acker Stadt Palast, Berlin

This year marks the eight edition of one of the very few music festivals entirely devoted to solo improvisation worldwide. In the city of Berlin - one of Europe's hotspots not only for experimental music - curator *Volker Meitz* has succeeded to establish an annual forum for this special and intimate format of musical performance.

The venue, Acker Stadt Palast, is some sort of *time bubble*. Located in the now posh city centre, it still breathes the atmosphere of the early 1990's, when the Berlin Wall had just come down: Sustained by a non-profit foundation, it has retained the flair of squat buildings, patina and makeshift culture that was not least a breeding ground to the internationally renowned *Echtzeitmusik* scene – protagonists of which have appeared at the festival, too.

On **three days**, altogether **15 musicians** will be performing, stemming from diverse musical universes. Next to drawing on an abundance of artists from the **local** community which Berlin is famous for, Volker Meitz also invited **national and international** improvisers, such as vocal artist *Marcela Lucatelli* (DK), pianist *Stefan Schultze* (CH), trumpet player *Birgit Ulher* (Hamburg) or saxophonist *Angelika Niescier* (Cologne). Other musicians like drummer *Maria Portugal* (BR), percussion player *Evi Filippou* (GR) oder pianist *Kit Downes* (UK) have moved to Berlin only recently.

The evenings will kick off with a short **podium discussion** by all five musicians, after which they will perform solo for 20 minutes each. As a contrast, the finale features a **collective** improvisation, with the five artists reacting to one another, while they previously had been alone with themselves and the audience. Hence we get to know different faces of the musicians, which makes for an entertaining and diverse experience.

The line-up spans artists from the “free” ends of **jazz, contemporary** and **electronic music**, partly falling under the umbrella term of the aforementioned *Echtzeitmusik* („real time music“), playing amplified, electronic, or purely acoustic instruments – down to *Stefan Schultze* using computer controlled hammer action on a grand piano. Thus, we can expect three suspenseful evenings between melodious harmony and experimental noise. There also is some connection to popular music through artists like *Dirk Berger*, who not only plays guitar with instrumental Hip Hop band Lychee Lassi but also produced albums by famous German Acts *Marteria* and *Peter Fox*.

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Date : Tuesday 16.9. – Thursday 18.9. 2025

Venue: Acker Stadt Palast, Ackerstraße 169 /170, 10115 Berlin
www.ackerstadtpalast.de

Tickets: 15€ / 10€ // Festival-Pass 38€

Time: Show 19:30 // Doors: 19:00h

Sequence: Artist talk / 5 Solo-Performances 20 min. ea / collective Finale

LINE-UP

Tuesday 16.9.

MARIA REICH – violin
KIT DOWNES (UK) – piano
MARIA PORTUGAL (BR) – drums, vocals
MICHAEL THIEKE – clarinet
TONY ELIEH (LB) – bass, electronics

Wednesday 17.9.

GUILHERME RODRIGUES (P) – cello
BIRGIT ULHER (Hamburg) – trumpet, objects
SIMON BERZ (CH) – drums, electronics
AKI TAKASE – piano
MARCELA LUCATELLI (DK) – vocals, electronics

Thursday 18.9.

DIRK BERGER – guitar
EVI FILIPPOU – percussion
MAURIZIO VELASIERRA – hybrid flutes
ANGELIKA NIESCIER (Köln) – alto saxophone
STEFAN SCHULTZE (CH) – piano, midi-electronics

Web: www.berlin-solo-impro.de
→→ find here **artist bio's, videos & pictures** for download, too

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerlinSoloImpro

Instagram: @berlin_solo_impro

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Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der
Berliner Senatsverwaltung für
Kultur & Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt

 Monat der
zeitgenössischen
Musik

 IG Jazz
Berlin



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initiative neue musik berlin e.V.



Short version

One of the few music festivals worldwide dedicated to solo improvisation. On 3 nights, there are 15 performances of artists from Echtzeitmusik, jazz, new music & electronics. Each night, three Berlin based players meet one national and one international performer. There's a talk, 5 solo performances, contrasted by a collective finale of the five.

Super-short version

One of the few music festivals worldwide dedicated to solo improvisation. 3 nights x 5 artists – talk, 5x solo performance, collective finale.