

"MADE IN NORWAY"

BALLROGG

VERTEX

Double bill w/ two Norwegian impro duos w/ double cd-release



V E R T E X

vertex spontaneously compose electro-acoustic music that is both immediate and enticing to listen to. From lowercase drones through acoustic melodic passages to assaulting industrial walls of sound, **vertex** creates a plausible yet otherworldly soundscape with its own set of natural laws. A universe that focuses in on form and interaction.

Petter Vågan – lapsteel/acoustic guitar/electronics

Tor Haugerud – percussion/ signalgenerator/field-recordings

vertex has been active since 2006. The duo has already done many festival- and club-conserts, and has also done a tour with the extremely talented Christian Wallumrød as a musical guest. As musical references one could list Huntsville, Jim O'Rourke, Fred Frith, Spunk, Keith Rowe, Fennesz, Deathprod, Perlonex and Lasse Marhaug.

vertex is releasing their debut album in February 2010 on the renowned impro-label Sofa. A record mixed by the talented Italian musician and producer Giuseppe Ielasi.

vertex has spent a great amount of time finding the right ingredients to bring to their soundstage, in terms of frequency balancing, dynamics, genre, minimalism, maximalism and musical vocabulary. The musical roles are in a state of constant change and the guitar and percussion perfectly equal when it comes to the music's direction and focus of attention.

The result is an eclectic mix of genre, delicately played with conviction and experience.

Petter Vågan (b. 1982) is a hard-working up and coming impro-musician who's becoming a household name in Norway these days, he's released several albums and toured all over Norway, Sweden, Russia, USA, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. He's playing on guitars, lapsteels and prepared guitars, and utilizes an array of effects in a delicate manner, to mangle and distort reality in his own way. He has a performing masters degree from the world-renowned jazz course the Conservatory of Music in Trondheim. He's has played with musicians like Christian Wallumrød, Ståle Storløkken, Mathias Eick, Håvard Wiik, Håkon Kornstad, Thomas Strønen, Jonas Kullhammar, Mats Eilertsen, Lene Grenager and Kjetil Møster etc

Tor Haugerud (b. 1962) has been an active musician, composer and performanceartist for the last 24 years. He's developed a unique playingstyle with his unorthodox drum set and use of electronics and unconventional instruments like fans, drills, singing bowls, bows, stones. Has in recent years operated in the more free musical landscapes, with musicians like Kim Myhr, Christian Wallumrød, Stian Westerhus, Martin Tøxt, Jon Balke, Sidsel Endresen, Ingar Zach, Eirik Hegdal, Michael Duch, Kjetil Møster etc, and with the groups Alpaca Ensemble, Én Én Én, Murmur, and TIE (Trondheim Improvisasjons Ensemble).

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B A L L R O G G

Saxophone player Klaus Ellerhusen Holm and bass player Roger Arntzen have joined forces and created the duo **Ballrogg**. The duo started out exploring the music of Eric Dolphy in a small format, stripped down to only bass and reeds in 2006. Songs from greats such as Paul Bley, Ornette Coleman and Jimmy Giuffre was soon also brought into the concept, aside with compositions by the group itself. The results was some free jazz-classics combined with spacy and energetic originals placed into an acoustic chamber setting.

The focus is now exclusively on original compositions. Trying to melt the two instruments into one sound **Ballrogg** is emphasizing sustained sounds, intervals and textures, and integrates it into clear and simple compositions.

Klaus Ellerhusen Holm – alto saxophone/ clarinet/ feedback

Roger Arntzen – double bass

Ballrogg, released their second album *Insomnia* in January 2010 on Bolage. Since their critically acclaimed self-titled debut album the duo has moved into significantly deeper water, drawing influences from European contemporary music as well as American avantgarde. On *Insomnia*, their influences are mixed with a cinematic sensitivity, creating soundscapes that are deeply disturbing and stunningly beautiful.

Ballrogg has since the debut been touring in Scandinavia, Europe and North-America.

Klaus Ellerhusen Holm (sax, clar) leads his own group Klaus Holm Kollektif, who was awarded "Yong Nordic Jazzcomets 2003". He plays free-improvised music with the Norwegian trio Murmur and has worked with international artists such as Raymond Strid, Axel Dörner, Jim Denley, Mattias Ståhl, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Ingar Zach, Sture Ericson and Frode Gjerstad, and has done tours on festivals and jazzclubs in several countries in both Europe, America and Asia. The last years he has also composed music for various chamber music settings and also music for film.

Roger Arntzen (double bass) is known from the piano trio In The Country, who was awarded "Young Jazz Musicians Of The Year 2004" in Norway. The trio has released three albums on the Norwegian cult-label Rune Grammofon to much acclaim. He is a regular together with Shining-leader Jørgen Munkeby with the noise-rock-jazz-quartet Chrome Hill and has teamed up with Chrome Hill-drummer Torstein Lofthus as two thirds of Håvard Stubø Trio. He has also worked with downtown NYC icon Marc Ribot and pedal-steel guitarist Bob Hoffnar, and other international artists such as Neil Metcalfe, Terry Day, John Russell, Sidsel Endresen, Susanna Wallumrød and Stian Carstensen.

Said about the debut album:

Considering that this is merely just a duo, they are well-matched and consistently inspired throughout. Superbly recorded as well.

Downtown Music Gallery (US)

A conception that strives for beauty without ever touching on anything conventionally lyrical. **Cadence (US)**

This is an excellent debut from a pair who have clearly not only set the bar high for themselves, but for the music as a whole. **Bagatellen (US)**

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