

Biographical Notes



Jaap Blonk (born 1953 in Woerden, Netherlands) is a self-taught composer, vocalist, poet and visual artist. His unfinished studies in mathematics and musicology mainly created a penchant for activities in a Dada vein, as did several unsuccessful jobs in offices and other well-organized systems. In the early 1980s he discovered the power and flexibility of his voice, and set out on a long-term research of phonetics and the possibilities of the human voice. At present, he has developed into a specialist in the creation and performance of sound poetry and a unique vocal improviser, supported by a powerful and uninhibited stage presence.

He performs and gives workshops worldwide on a regular basis. With the use of live electronics and projection of visuals the scope and range of his concerts has acquired a considerable extension. To this date Blonk's music has appeared on 30 CDs with his own Kontrans label; many other recordings as well as about a dozen books with his visual work have been published in several countries.



Jonathan Chaim Reus (b. US) is a transmedia artist and musician known for his use of expanded digital instrumentation in live, theatrical and virtual (online) contexts. Thematically, his work often explores nuances and contradictions within single-story narratives around technology and culture. He has done extensive artistic research relating to musical instrument heritages and how concepts of tradition and folk art become transformed through technological change. His most current work is exploring relationships between human voice and its artificial reproduction. He is currently based in The Hague, and is an affiliate of the Intelligent Instruments Lab (Reykjavik) and the Sussex Humanities Lab (Brighton).



Victor Shepardson (b. US) is a doctoral researcher in the Intelligent Instruments Lab at the University of Iceland. Previously he worked as a machine learning engineer on neural models of speech, and before that studied Digital Musics at Dartmouth College and Computer Science at the University of Virginia. His interests include machine learning, artificial intelligence, electronic and audiovisual music, and improvisation. In his current research, Victor approaches the lived experience of people with AI via design of, and performance with, new musical instruments. His projects include the Living Looper, which reimagines the live looping pedal through neural synthesis algorithms, and Notochord, a probabilistic model for MIDI performances.