

# The Extensions

Georg Hofmann (dr), Vinz Vonlanthen (g) and Christoph Baumann (p)



## Free Pulse Noise Music

after inviting pianist Christoph Baumann and guitarist Vinz Vonlanthen, both singular musical characters, to play successful concerts at the Workshops of Improvised Music of Bern and Zürich in Switzerland, the Extensions were formed in 2001 as a regular unit. I called the group «Georg Hofmann's Extensions» due to the fact that the sounds produced by guitar and piano often seemed to be an extension of my drums and percussion work.

Basically our music is freely improvised. The result however is more than the usual reminiscence to the old times of Free Jazz. I call this music FreePulseNoiseMusic because this best describes what is happening. Our palette of expression ranges from hectic to melancholic, from sparseness to density and to the warm and poetic. In any case it will be dynamic, contemporary and diverse.

After touring Switzerland in early 2002 the cd «sit back and relax» was released on the Swiss label Altrisuoni. In February 2004 followed another Swiss tour called «Georg Hofmann's Extended Extensions » featuring Remi Alvarez on saxophones and bassist Aaron Cruz from Mexico City as special guests. End of October 2005 Georg Hofmann's composition «Extended Boris» based on „l'écume du jour“ by Boris Vian was premiered at the festival «die lange Nacht der kurzen Geschichten» in Zürich, Switzerland commissioned by the festival.

Demo: <https://on.soundcloud.com/J5w6V>

## Press

«with its skittering distorted guitar, aggressive out-of-kilter drums and hammered piano clusters, the title of this album and opening track seem more a dare than an invitation. this trio sounds like a garage band from a 22nd century dystopia. this comes through most strongly on «postatomar shuffle» with its jagged, astringent funk and the quirky «elephant's dance». the music's textures belie its seemingly limited palette with individual instruments taking turns as lead voice. .... the band shows it can play with delicacy as on the fragile «ballad» and «lonely moskito». ....» David Dupont, Cadence May 2003

«here is a disc full of scrap and hardware preciosities, full of anxious chords. ... we sink into the perceptible and loose the north (zero wish to find it again). we disconnect us from the academic. we touch the forbidden, pass crazy machines, we take refuge, shocked by this astounding trios navigation. People say that Switzerland is really strange...but time and again we will go back again». Luc Bouquet, Improjazz March 2003

«sit back and relax» is the title of the album. Do it, when listening to it, as this music is challenging. Repeated and concentrated listening however will bring you to an experience of sound that is close to a revelation. All of a sudden you understand Georg Hofmann talking about FreePulseNoiseMusic. ... sparseness contrasts voluptuous walls of sound. space and sound melt, the instruments and their soundspectras are fully exploited. New worlds open to the listener and in front of the inner eye evolves the film to the soundtrack. ... Hofmann managed to fuse John Bonham and Pierre Favre and found his own sound more than ever before.» Rainer Froehlich, jazz n'more June/July 2002

### Georg Hofmann (drums/percussion)

Born in Zürich/Switzerland, Hofmann is considered one of the distinct European drummers/percussionists. Besides the «Extensions», he is a member of «Armando Martín & The Tribe» with Armando Martín (guitar) and Charles Fletcher (bass) and «Noru Ka Soru Ka», an improvising quartet with Japanese dancers Mao Arata and Makoto Matsushima and American guitarist Mike Nord. As a freelancer he worked with Charles Gayle, Steve Gorn, Robert Dick, Trevor Watts, Pierre Favre, Cyro Batista, Christoph Baumann, Hans Koch, Gene Coleman among others. Georg Hofmann also composes for theater, dance, film and fashionshows and teaches drums and percussion as well as improvisation in different institutions in Switzerland and abroad (e.g. Columbia University, New York, Konservatorium Winterthur). Since 2019 Georg Hofmann lives with his wife in Merida, Mexico and is a member of the Mexican jazz- and improscene playing with The Tribe (original music with Armando Martín, g and Charles Fletcher, b), The Latin Genetics (music by Ornette Coleman and his sidemen), with Blaise Siwula (new album „dialogues“), Brian Allen (album „El Sur“ release August 2022 on ropeadope), Caja de Espejo by Todd Clouser on photos by Jesus Cornejo and many more. Tours and Festivals brought him to Switzerland, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Serbia, Tzech Republic, USA, Mexico, Japan, Hong Kong and China.

### Christoph Baumann (piano/prepared piano)

He grew up with western classical music and is also deeply rooted in the percussive idioms of contemporary jazz and afrocuban music. His artistic work is oscillating between the poles outgoing improvisation and composition, and he but likes to question granted positions with humor and absurdity. As a pianist and in particular as a composer he assumes stimulating or critical stances by means of playfully confronting and fusing attitudes and mentalities. His pervading interest to bring different musical stiles into a dramatical context is particularly evident in his big speciality, to taylor his composed and improvised music tightly to theatre and radio plays, dance, films and his three speech-operas. Baumann teaches at the Music Universities of Lucerne and Bern and performs internationally with a big variety of soloists and ensembles. Since the late 70s he is noted for unconventional projects such as the *Jerry Dental KollekdooF*, the Latin-experimental band *Mentalities*, *Cadavre Exquis*, *Baumann Large Ensemble*, *Afro Garage* and *Hausquartett*. His musical work is well documented on CDs and he played tours and festivals in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Greece, India, Baltic Republics, Russia, Finnland, Cuba, Madagaskar, Bolivia, Peru incl. Festivals Montreux, Willisau, San Sebastian, Vilnius, Tallin, Kaunas, Nîmes, Santjago de Cuba, Havanna, London, Bangalore, Sofia, Cluny, Moskau, Leibzig etc.

### Vinz Vonlanthen (guitars, vocal, comp.)

Born in Bern, Switzerland he lives today in Geneva. Vinz Vonlanthen is part of a select group of creative, inventive and unbridled guitarists in Europe. After working many years as an autodidact he enroled at the renowned Swiss Jazz School in Bern, Switzerland, punctuated by long stays in Brazil and Ghana. For several years he commuted between Paris and Switzerland playing many gigs and founding «Vinz Vonlanthen's Paris Connection» and «Urban Safari» touring all over Europe. Vinz then dedicates himself more and more to the art of improvised music. His performance becomes a very personal and unique statement. He becomes a key figure in the scene of free improvisation. His breath and musical diversity provides him with many challenging opportunities: he writes scores for movies, plays and dance. He was and is involved in projects with Barry Guy, Gerry Hemingway, Julian Sartorius, Sylvie Courvoisier, Jacques Demierre, Pierre Audetat, Bänz Oester, Hans Koch, Joke Lanz, Michel Wintsch, Adama Dramé, Roberto Viscaïno, Kenny Wheeler. He teaches Jazz-guitar, theory and Workshops at the HEMU Music University in Lausanne (CH). Vinz played Festivals in Japan, Brüssel, Jazzfestival Montreux, India, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Austria and Spain.