

Benjamin Strauch

Curriculum Vitae

Artistic

Benjamin Strauch
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Born April 14th 1985, Weimar/German Democratic Republic

Education

- September 2005-August 2006: Conservatory Amsterdam first year Bachelor jazz piano with Karel Boehlee – piano
- 2006-2010: “Codarts” Conservatory of Rotterdam Bachelor jazz piano with Johan Clement and Kris Goessens – piano
- 2009 – 2012: Baptiste Trotignon Paris. Private piano lessons focusing on phrasing, choice of notes and sound lead by the inner voice of the player within Bach and traditional jazz repertoire. Along the way glancing at spacing, technique such as attack and release and analysis of Alban Berg’s melodies and harmonies
- 11/10/2011 – 06/2013: Pakhavaj lessons Nathanael van Zuilen Indian rhythm patterns and playing technique of the instrument, one or two times per month
- 15/10/2011 – 10/06/2013: Jazz piano lessons Rob van Bavel enhancing flexibility of harmonic and melodic repertoire through incorporation of structure based approach. Introduction to playing styles of Marc Copland, Michael Brecker, Brad Mehldau, John Taylor, Bill Carrothers and others and to composing material of 20th century composers. Every one or two months.

Encounters

- 06 – 13/09/2016: during one week of exchange within Electro Camp #4, an experimental dance and sound art festival in Mestre, Venice, Italy work, talk and eat with [Marianna Andrigo](#), Aldo Aliprandi, Tomaz Grom, Valentina De Pianta Niculae, Jasna Velicovic, [Johann Merrich](#), Catalin Cretu, [Isabel Nogueira](#), Luciano Zannata, Seijiro Murayama
- 07/08/2017: first encounter with acquaintance, singer, entertainer and reggae artist [Thomas Katrozan](#)

- 21/08/2017: first encounter with sparring partners Vera Behne and Thomas Mierzwa at Musifa Leipzig
- 12/12/2017: introduction to Theremin player Carolina Eyck; singer Lisa Zinzscher; at Koerper Im Keller with special guest composer, Singer - Songwriter Jan Frisch at Neues Schauspiel Leipzig

Participations

- March - September 2011: Trio of [Melissa Oliveira](#) with her - vocals and Maxim Perepelica - bass. Concerts at renown venues throughout the Netherlands
- 02/09 - 25/11/2017: piano, effects, arranging and acting in participation concert "Geisterspuk", a playful ghost story with [Kathrin Bonke](#) - flute, vocals, story telling, concept, Klaus Wegener - saxophones, clarinets, arranging and acting, Jakob Kufert - drums, arranging and acting. 2017 autumn tour through northern, southern and central Germany.
- 22/11 - 21/12/2018: piano, vocals, arranging and acting in participation concert "Wirbelige Wichtelweihnacht", a playful dwarf story with [Kathrin Bonke](#) - flute, vocals, story telling, concept, Björn Werner - vocals and acting, Daniel Sorour - cello and acting. 2018 Christmas tour through northern, southern and central Germany.
- 07/08/2017 - today: keyboards & effects in Reggae band Captain Katze and in Pop - Cover backing band for [Thomas Katrozan](#). Concerts at local town celebrations through northern and eastern Germany.

Bands

- September 2011 - today: [Solo](#) performance. Free improvisations, quotations and variations related to traditional jazz styles, blues and contemporary classical music. Leaving and taking parameters like harmony, melody and rhythm of a certain style of those mentioned. 2011, 2012 and 2015 concerts throughout the Netherlands and Germany.
- January 2012 - October 2016: [Yellow Dog Trio](#) exploring the area between jazz, contemporary classical music and open improvisation. Atmospheric moods alternating with distorted swing and rock oriented riffs. Personnel: Benjamin Strauch - piano ; Gonçalo Almeida - bass ; Friso van Wijck - drums. 2012, 2014 and 2016 concerts throughout the Netherlands.
- October 2011 - 2012: Duo with voice performance artist and girlfriend Janneke van der Putten dia screenings accompanied by free improvisations incorporating musical movements interpreted freely and musical fragments related to folklore, jazz and chanson. 2009, 2011 and 2012 performances at renowned galleries throughout south of the Netherlands.

- 09/2014 – 22/09/2015: [duo with singer and friend Stephanie Lehmann](#), presenting songs written and arranged in collaboration. 2014 and 2015 performances throughout southern Netherlands and Germany.
- 01/10/2015 – today: [poidespaces](#) with Thomas Körtvelyessy – dance, researching the possibilities of weight and space in movement and sound within a structured improvisation context. 2016 performances throughout southern Netherlands and Italy.
- 19/08/2017 – today: piano & electronics in [Breitenstrauch](#) avant-garde – and hard bop Duo with Michael Breitenbach. 2017 – 2019 concerts at renowned venues and festivals throughout central Germany.

Arrangements/Compositions

- 2008: series of German folk songs, for church organ, saxophone, violin, viola and cello
- 2009: series of original modern jazz compositions, for Benjamin Strauch Dining Society, jazz sextet
- 2012: avant-garde jazz piece "[For Løgumkloster](#)", for mother Christina Meißner – cello, brother Jonathan Strauch - saxophone, myself - piano and Poul Skjølstrup-Larssen - church organ

Curating

- 2015 – 2017: concert series "[Seeds](#)" in Rotterdam, facilitating encounters of new born regional projects with Rotterdam based audiences, open for improvisation, jazz and words

Teaching

- 2011 – 2017: teaching jobs at local music schools around Rotterdam, incorporating individual lessons, group lessons and workshops to schools.
- 2017 – today: regular teaching job at [Musifa](#) music academy in main – and side subject piano, and participation in the board of teachers to develop the teaching model.