

Hull 2017 UK City of Culture: New Music

Hull 2017 is a unique opportunity for the city to create new work and collaborations, showcase the best in experimental music and redefine public perception of Hull. Curated Place are in a unique position to deliver artists and new opportunities with projects and partners at a timely stage of their development to leave lasting legacy.

As expressed in our pitch we want to ensure that we deliver a programme of outstanding quality for the city and create new connections in and out of the city. Curated Place's international profile, with mature networks in Reykjavik, Aarhus, Rotterdam and across Europe will allow us to develop relationships with co-commissioners, compile a programme rich in diversity and deliver high quality accessible events throughout 2017. Our aim is to create routes into the sometimes baffling world of New Music, seeking out cross over artists with accessibility while introducing the best in experimental music and supporting the PRS New Musik Biennial.

This document is produced as a starting point to explore several trajectories of development - some we can guarantee at this stage given we are a prime driver or lead partner in the production. Others are presented as options to be explored and developed over the next 6 months.

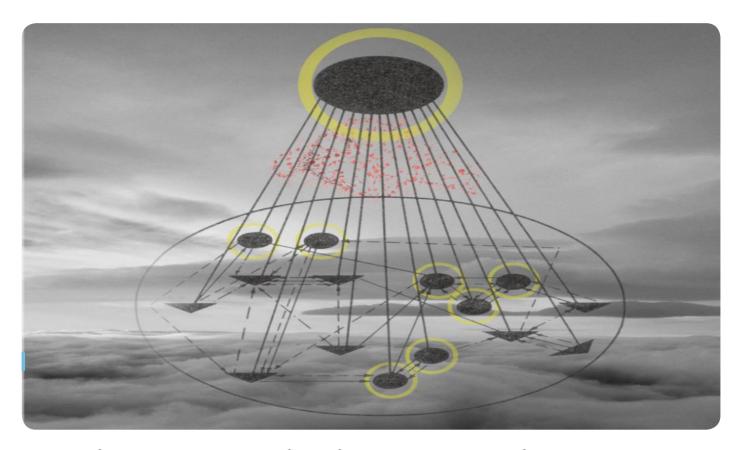


Creating Routes in: Experimental vs Accessible

The world of New Music offers a number of challenges to a public facing event like City of Culture. The musicians involved are highly trained, extremely experienced and usually interested in ways of working that push boundaries beyond melody, notation, rhythm and tone. While many works are technically brilliant there are significant barriers to entry for a non-specialist audience - it can often feel complex, elitist, serious.

In order to create routes into the more esoteric corners of this world we will walk the fine line between accessibility and excellence, complementing the PRS programme with leading experimental musicians as well as cross-over artists who are not afraid of venturing into the realms of pop or embracing fun. Working with both UK artists and those from overseas our curatorial and production focus will be on creating narratives relevant to Hull and developing opportunities for meaningful participation - whether for artists in the region or public audiences.

Our programming will marry the two into a seamless experience, seeing our Routes and Roots programme invite artists that push pop towards the experimental priming audiences for the hardcore art-music of PRS' programming during the Freedom Season. Alongside PRS we will programme artist and partners focused on new technology and collaboration, enabling space for experimentation and explanation as well as performance before developing a Tell the World programme that aims to develop projects with the flavor of Hull to premiere in Hull and take flight beyond 2017.



Festival and Organisation Collaboration

At the heart of our approach to programming is Collaboration. We will invite existing partners from Hull's twin cities and from other international programmes to develop works with us for the Hull programme. We are experienced in leveraging maximum value from budgets through international partnership working and can manage the entire co-commissioning process across concept, legal, production and delivery.

We are exceptionally well networked allowing us to pull together a significant programme in the limited time available, including a series of original commissions for City of Culture with a Hull focus.

We are also already at the table in a number of major projects that are taking place in or around 2017 that can complement the delivery of City of Culture and bring a truly international dimension to proceedings. The projects we are closet allied to are detailed overleaf.

Moving Classics: European Network for New Music

Our own ongoing New Music development project spanning Europe. Inspired by regional musical, literary, poetic and artistic traditions, interpreted through the eyes of an outsider working in each host region the project delivers residencies for composers and musicians to develop new commissions

Moving Classics is created with the intention of engaging modern audiences that may not have experienced contemporary classical music the project will seek to reshape the perception of taught musicianship by showing its role in a shared European identity, embracing the emergent experience economy and moving the performance space from the concert hall to found spaces and the public realm. In 2016 we are hosting two composers from the Netherlands with strong links to Rotterdam and embedded in Reykjavik and Oslo.



Cycle Festival

Co-produced by Curated Place and based in Reykjavik the festival is a new platform for exploring and exhibiting the meeting point of creative worlds, producing and presenting works that reach outside the traditional boundaries of discipline, craft and process. Pioneering international artists in the fields of new music, performance art, visual arts, sound art and architecture will collaborate and create across a city-wide site with music as a central focus.

By introducing existing ideas, sounds, materials and our habitat in a new context, Cycle seeks to redefine the traditional art festival as a site of creation not just consumption. It experiments with new ways of using the concert hall and museum, whilst escaping them to showcase performances and installations in public spaces and found locations. They aim to push artists to engage outside of the boundaries imposed by their disciplines, with the intention of altering their own and their audience's perception of their surroundings and by doing, to find a meaningful alternative to the avant-garde.



Threshold Festival

Developed by Curated Place Music Manager Chris Carney from origins in Liverpool '08 Threshold is a living breathing example of the lasting legacy City of Culture can have. A grassroots music festival and development organisation that has been at the forefront of creative economy regenerating the Baltic Triangle.

About to go into its 6th year (opening 1st April) Threshold presents an opportunity for coprogramming at each end of the "Northern Powerhouse" demonstrating a will and ability to traverse the Pennines and develop a case for talent development on each coast and highlight the importance for regional funding to flow into both Hull beyond 2017.

Threshold will provide links to the vibrant independent music scene across the North and be in a position to offer artist development programmes for artists in Hull where appropriate.



Enlighten Festival is an annual celebration of artwork traversing the mediums of light and sound that takes place in Manchester. Working with the festival we are able to bring in the equipment, infrastructure and expertise to transform venues, found spaces and the public realm into unique performance destinations.

We have had huge success building non-typical audiences for new and experimental music by packaging it as part of a light and sound event rather than in a traditional contemporary classical or avant-garde frame and can roll out this expertise in Hull.

Many of the works produced with Enlighten take original compositions and performances transforming them into installation artworks allowing for both a live and 'in the can' version of work to take place. This allows for longer term duration musical pieces to be left in situ without the demanding overheads of live performers throughout the year





Nordic Music Days (Reykjavik)

Nordic Music Days is the oldest ongoing collaboration among the Nordic countries: a festival for new Nordic music that was founded in 1888 and had its origins in existing musical collaboration. It is one of the oldest and best respected festivals for contemporary classical music in the world. The festival is unique in the respect that it is arranged by the composers themselves.

Each year one of members, the national societies of composers, arranges the festival on behalf of the Council of Nordic Composers. In 2016 it is hosted in Reykjavik and managed by our collaborating team in Moving Classics allowing us to develop programme in tandem that will be effective in Reykjavik and Hull.



∣ Spor Festival (Aarhus)

SPOR's vision is to thematise, actualize and promote the contemporary music and sound art, nationally as well as internationally. SPOR creates a platform for stronger connections to the international sound art and music scenes - and therefore fruitful exchange that can inspire artists and further develop the Danish contemporary music.

The main activity of SPOR is the annual festival, which was held in 2005 for the first time, taking place each year in May in the city of Aarhus, Denmark. Since June 2007 Anne Marqvardsen and Anna Berit Asp Christensen have been the festival directors of SPOR.

We are developing work in tandem with Spor for the 2017 Festival featuring the Aarhus Sinfonietta which could tour to Hull as part of our programme. We are planning on undertaking a research trip in May when the festival is underway to solidify additional collaboration opportunities connecting Aarhus and Hull as they both becomes capitals of culture.



NOMEX (Pan-Nordic)

NOMEX is a pan-Nordic platform owned by the music export offices in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is set up to facilitate growth and development in the Nordic music sector through media development, transnational promotion and support services for artists. Through projects spanning the region and beyond, NOMEX embraces the essential value of Nordic collaboration as a whole and as a rising force within the international music industry.

We are already in conversations with NOMEX director Anna Hildur Hildibrandsdottir about developing a programme for Hull that spans the best experimental pop through to contemporary classical. The organisaiton provides a direct line to all Nordic countries music export programmes and leading performers.



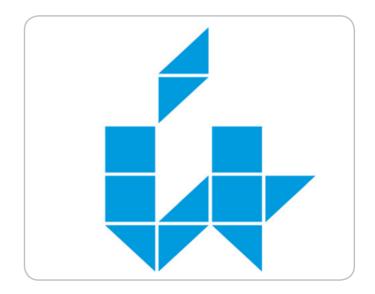
∣ Uton (Reykjavik)

Iceland Music Export (UTON) was established to promote and create opportunities for Icelandic music makers abroad. The goal of the office is to increase the ability of Icelandic musicians to find success in international markets.

The main task Iceland Music Export are:

- -Introducing Icelandic musicians abroad
- -Make Icelandic music available abroad
- -Raise awareness of local festivals and musical events
- -Promote export of Icelandic Music
- -Strengthening cooperation internationally

Uton provides a gateway to all Icelandic musicians at a stage in their careers to work internationally and as such are an essential partner. We are meeting their director Sigtryggur Baldursson (ex-sugarcubes drummer) on the 1st April to discuss the project and opportunities for collaboration between the twin cities.



Nordic Music Export Offices

(Stockholm-Oslo-Helsinki)

Working with NOMEX we have developed partnerships with all of the Nordic Music Export offices and are actively exploring which artists are available for performance in Hull during 2017 and who might be effective partners for collaboration and co-production.

Our successes with international projects have grown from an approach that seeks to marry high-impact delivery for events with longer term legacy for participants and audiences built in. We would undertake this approach with each partnership to ensure maximum value for Hull.



NordicCouncilofMinisters and South Bank Centre

Chosen from a number of international applicants, Southbank Centre is the sole recipient of a grant for a new festival celebrating the very best of Nordic art and culture throughout 2017 – one of the biggest cultural-political partnerships of its kind.

A particular emphasis will be placed on the idea of play fostering curiosity and creativity, for people of all ages but especially children and young people. Moving beyond popular perceptions of the 'Nordic Noir' the programme is designed to embed Nordic culture and artists in Southbank Centre's yearlong artistic offer and offer a platform to some of the more 'hidden voices' from Greenland, Aland and the Faroe Islands. Audiences will be able to experience and explore this cultural connection through an extensive programme of music, dance, performance, digital, literature, spoken word, design, visual art, fashion and food.

We are talking with the Icelandic Embassy on this project and if progressing would aim to premiere works in Hull before London ensuring the City of Culture status rings true.



WORM (Rotterdam)

WORM is a Rotterdam based non-profit foundation and a multi-media alternative cultural centre focused on experimental, new media art, avantgarde and underground art, primarily music and movies.

WORM organises festivals and concerts, movie nights, runs an independent record label, a radio station. Part of the organisation is also a media lab, a hackspace, and a music studio. The media lab and music studio both run free artist in residence programms for artists and experimental musicians.

We would seek to arrange a framework whereby City of Culture could invite artists from Hull to undertake residencies at WORM and receive artists from Rotterdam to deliver experimental workshops in Hull throughout the year.



Bedroom Community is an Icelandic music collective formed in 2006 by Valgeir Sigurðsson, with Nico Muhly and Ben Frost, later adding Sam Amidon, Daniel Bjarnason, Puzzle Muteson, Paul Corley, Nadia Sirota and James McVinnie to the intimate roster. 2015 saw two new additions to the family being: Emily Hall & Jodie Landau and wild Up.

Like-minded, yet diverse individuals from different corners of the globe all creatively orbit around an inconspicuous building and its inhabitants on the outskirts of Reykjavik Iceland - Greenhouse Studios - where the music is mostly created. Bedroom Community was described by Drowned in Sound as "one of the best guarantors of quality, even importance, out there" known for its "emotionally powerful music. We would work with them to develop aspects of the cross-over programme.







| Artist Long List

We are in constant contact with many communities of artists and artist's organisations across the Nordic region and across Europe. Whilst we have strong and relevant connections with Reykjavik, Aarhus and Rotterdam immediately relevant to the twin cities agenda we would not limit our productions to these places and work in tandem with other strands of City of Culture to develop a programme meaningful to Hull and with legacy.

As such the list presented here should be considered as a list of possibilities for rapid development and up-scaling but not exhaustive. We have demonstrable experience of bringing in international artists from all corners of the globe and would seek to shape a meaningful programme over and above being strictly restricted to geographical areas - such is the nature of music making in the digital age.

That said we would seek to develop projects and programme where we could build in a degree of ongoing opportunities over and above a programme made up entirely of touring acts.

Halldor Smarason

Halldor Smarason is an Icelandic composer based in Reykjavik. In 2014 his Master's thesis at the Manhattan School of Music, New York, was selected to be premiered by the Manhattan School of Music Symphony conducted by David Gilbert. Since then he has worked and premiered new work all over Europe with his latest collaboration being with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in 2015.

Working with poet Adelle Stripe on a new operetta 'for Hull Capital of Culture 2017 drawing on local folklore, oral histories, hydrographic maps and archive material from Hull History Centre.

Adelle Stripe

Adelle Stripe is a poet from Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Her writing has appeared in publications including Brand, Succour, The Guardian, Morning Star, The Times and The Stool Pigeon.

Her poetry work 'Beyond the Silver Pit' about Hull's fishermen that lost their life on the Dogger Bank in the great storm of December 1894 provides a starting point for a unique collaboration with Reykjavik composer Halldor Smarason - exploring and sharing the voices of Hull's women that were left behind following this tragic event.

Pinquins

Pinquins are a Norwegian Experimental Percussion Ensemble established in 2008 in Oslo. Pinquins has produced and presented a number of concerts including appearances at Ultima Oslo Contemporary Festival, Bergen International Festival, Cycle Music and Art Festival, Øya Festival, THEMUS Festival.

They have collaborated with Kroumata, Sisu, Hakon Stene, Hans-Kristian Kjos Sørensen, Brandt Brauer Frick, and Duo En er 1. With the support of The Department of Foreign Affairs and The Fund for Performing Arts Pinquins toured Australia in early 2012 and in autumn 2013 toured conservatories in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.







Eyvind Gulbrandsen

Eyvind Gulbrandsen is a Norwegian composer based in Aarhus Denmark. His works include solo chamber music, music for orchestra and theatre, electronic, electro-acoustic music and installations. His main inspiration is the people he works with and his focus is on the co-creation with either the musicians, the audience or both.

Eyvind will seek to work with a local choir delivering a new version of his composition 'Surrounded by Strangers' seeking inspiration from the stories of the members of the choir - to reveal their own personal understanding of their city.

Jobina Tinnemans

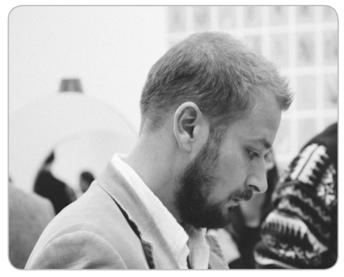
Jobina Tinnemans is a contemporary composer of Dutch origin now residing in Wales, working in crossover disciplines of electronics, classical music and contemporary art. Incorporating analogue and digital, lo-fi and high-end techniques as well as non-musicians and ancient crafts.

Page turning, knitters, hedge trimmers, kung fu and Shakespeare have all featured in her compositions., with her latest performance being at the Vogue Knitting Live Gala Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in New York. Jobina is currently working on a new live-vocal and video installation work that will explore the sonic and symbolic potential of docks & harbors as sites of oral history that spread internationally.

South Iceland Chamber Choir

Founded in 1997 the South Iceland Chamber Choir is well known for its versatile repertoire ranging from jazz and pop music to compositions reflecting the newest trends in contemporary music. The choir has collaborated and premiered work by many outstanding composers, these include Sir John Tavener, Jack White, Eyvind Gulbrandsen and Kjartan Sveinsson from Sigur Ros.

Currently a partner in Moving Classics - European Network for New Music, the choir is collaborating with Jobina Tinnemans on a the first work within a larger series of composition situated on breakwaters around the globe.







Johann Johannsson

Twice Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe winning Johann Johannsson is an Icelandic composer identified with minimalist, neo-classical, drone, and electronic music. Johann is known for his film music, primarily for his score for James Marsh's The Theory of Everything and his Oscar-nominated score for Denis Villeneuvue's most recent film Sicario.

After a period spent mostly concentrating on film scores, this year will see the release of several new music projects, some of which have been a long time in the making. Johannsson is working on his first studio album in four years since his last release Miner's Hymns in 2011

Teitur

Teitur is a Faroese musician, singer-songwriter and producer based on the Faroe Islands. He is a winner of multiple Danish Music Awards and has toured globally since his debut release, Poetry & Aeroplanes, in 2003.

Since 2001 he has dedicated himself to playing and writing music in English full-time, and has released six studio albums as a solo artist. He has additionally produced, written for, or worked with multiple international pop artists including Corinne Bailey Rae, Netherlands Wind Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Holland Baroque Society, Nolwenn Leroy, Nico Muhly, and Ane Brun.

Recently he has been playing with Finnish violin virtuoso Pekka Kuusisto

Jeppe Just Instituttet

Jeppe Just Christensen is a composer, musician, inventor, organ grinder and pioneer. In his music Jeppe works with different forms of elements with references to everyday objects, childhood and nostalgia. Jeppe performs both as a one-man band and together with Matias Seibæk and David Hildebrandt in Jeppe Just Instituttet.

Jeppe Just Instituttet performs songs consisting of melodies, lullabies and drunkard songs that are orchestrated for different home- and rebuilt instruments. With a love for musically junk aesthetics and metallic energy output, mixed with barrel organ and 70-80s synth, the band's musically preferences are involuntarily theatre, fervor, mismatch and breakdown.







Ragnhildur Gisladottir

A veteran of the Icelandic post-punk explosion of the early 80s and pop star of the 90s, Ragnhildur Gisladottir has gone on to develop a career in experimental composition writing music for films, theater and dance.

Her work embraces the unconventional. "Underseas" uses how the hearing impaired sense music as a starting point, exploiting the tonal sensation in silence. Parallel to Underseas she composed the work Dandelion Symphony where the musical instruments are also untraditional - the stems of dandelions. Gisladottir is now developing a series of audiovisual elements to her performances which will be ready to premiere in 2017.



Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto is internationally renowned both as soloist and director and is recognised for his spontaneity and fresh approach to the repertoire. In addition to his concerto performances, Pekka continually seeks to collaborate with people across the artistic spectrum, working on new interpretations of existing repertoire alongside original works.

He regularly directs from the violin, working on projects with ensembles such as the Britten Sinfonia; the Australian, London, Irish and St Paul Chamber Orchestras; as well as the Amsterdam and Västeros Sinfoniettas

| Olafur Arnalds (Kiasmos)

Olafur Arnalds mixes strings and piano with loops and edgy beats crossing over from ambient-electronic to pop. Olafur was a drummer of hardcore metal bands Fighting Shit, Celestine, and others.

In 2009, Olafur also formed an experimental techno project, entitled Kiasmos, with Janus Rasmussen from the Icelandic electro-pop band Bloodgroup. In 2014 Olafur announced his electronic debut album under the Kiasmos project.







Simon Steen Andersen

Simon Steen Andersen is a composer, performer and installation artist from Aarhus working in the field between instrumental music, electronics, video and performance within settings ranging from symphony orchestra and chamber music to stagings, solo performances and installations.

He has received numerous prizes and grants, including the Nordic Council Music Prize and the SWR Orchestra Prize 2014, the Carl Nielsen Prize (DK) and the Kunstpreis Musik from Akedemie der Kunste in Berlin 2013.



Nordic Affect

To view familiar musical forms from a different perspective and venture into new terrain is at the heart of Nordic Affect's music making. Fonded in 2005 the goal is to combine new compositions with the music of the 17th and 18th century. Chosen performer of the year 2015 and Ensemble of the Year 2014 at the Icelandic Music Award.

Presenting a concert installation with visual artist Sigurður Guðjonsson.



Icelandic Love Corporation with Juliana Hodkinson

The Icelandic Love Corporation is a group of three artists that graduated from the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts in 1996. Juliana Hodkinson is a British composer and arts writer based in Denmark. Her composition is focused on mixed formats such as instrumental theatre, installation-performance and film.

The Icelandic performance group joins forces with the British composer Juliana Hodkinson in the audio-visual performance 'Ceremony Harmony'. Taking place at Hull Harbor the performance involves a unity between actors and the audience. The actors represent the Hull fishing routes coming together at the harbor.



Kaj Duncan David

Kaj Duncan David is a British Danish composer, performer and curator working with mixed media and exploring various intersections between instrumental, electronic, audiovisual and installation forms.

Kaj is active as a performer and improviser and as a curator of concerts and events, mainly in Denmark. He sits on the boards of Aarhus Unge Tonekunstnere (an artist-led organisation promoting new music and sound art in Denmark) and Ung Nordisk Musik Danmark (a pan-Nordic festival organisation).

Ensemble Adapter

Adapter is a German-Icelandic ensemble for contemporary music based in Berlin. The core of the group consists of a quartet with flute, clarinet, harp and percussion.

On international concert tours and in the studio Adapter plays world premieres and other selected works of the recent past. The ensemble also produces and co-produces larger interdisciplinary projects – and is interested in exploring and testing the limits of trans-medial approaches in various settings.

Skark Ensemble

Skark Ensemble is a collective of string instrumentalists and composers from Iceland. Working together since 2008 the ensemble focuses on performing contemporary music. Experimenting with the performative and researching the borders of music, art and science and the ways to combine these things in a musical performance.

The Car Park Concert is a collaboration with Studio Olafur Eliasson will take place in a dark car park, Mirror Tunnel by Olafur Eliasson will stand in the space with the musicians within it. At each corner of the space is a vehicle which is used as a light source for the performance. The audience can walk around or sit on carton stools and experience the music and the artwork from different angles.







Mum

Mum are an experimental Icelandic musical group whose music is characterized by soft vocals, electronic glitch beats and effects, and a variety of traditional and unconventional instruments.

Since their foundation in 1998, Mum have forged a sublimely bright, warm and rich take on electronica, imprinting it with their own unique sound and character. What sets the band apart from so many of their peers is both their strong, playfully haunted melodies, and sorcerous integration of analogue and digital technologies.

Bang Gang

Bang Gang is a melodic pop band from Iceland founded by songwriter producer Barði Johannsson (see also Lady & Bird). The band is recognized for its blend of song writing, electronica and glacial atmospheres. The band has toured the world playing festivals like Iceland Airwaves, Cannes Film festival, Novosonic, For Noise, Montreaux Jazz Festival, CMJ and SXSW and a number of independent shows at venues such as Salle Pleyel, Gramercy theatre, Getty Center and more across Europe and North America.

John Grant

John Grant is an American singer-songwriter. Formerly associated with the Denver-based alternative rock band The Czars in the 1990s and early 2000s, he launched a career as a solo artist in 2010.

In 2011 Grant relocated to Reykjavik, Iceland, where he has lived and worked since collaborating closely with Birgir Porarinsson, a.k.a. Biggi Veira of Iceland's electronic pioneers Gus Gus for his second solo album, the album that cemented his solo career, Pale Green Ghosts.







Lukas Simonis(& STEPMOTHER)

Lukas Simonis is a Dutch guitarist, mainly active in experimental music and sound art. Besides his career as a musician he's also involved with the Rotterdam based avant-garde venue WORM and runs the music lab of the venue.



Efterklang

Efterklang is an Indie group from Aarhus-Copenhagen, Denmark, formed in December 2000.

The band has recorded four studio albums and are currently signed to the 4AD label, as well as their own record label Rumraket.



Mew

Mew are a Danish alternative rock band, consisting of Jonas Bjerre (lead vocals), Johan Wohlert (bass) and Silas Utke Graae.

Matching their fascinating, enigmatic album titles and lyrics, the Danes' music follows its own unique path, transporting a pure-pop sensibility through ever-evolving scenery and around exhilarating hairpin bends, making music as layered and expansive as it is charismatic and melodic.



| Todd Terje

Terje Olsen (born 1981), better known as Todd Terje, is a Norwegian DJ, songwriter, and record producer. His stage name is an homage to house music producer Todd Terry.

Called "King of the summer jam by Mixmag, "one third of the Holy Trinity of Norwegian disco" by Spin magazine, and "one of [the Scandinavian dance scene's] prominent figures" by AllMusic.



| Lindstrom & | Prins Thomas

Lindstrøm & Prins Thomas is a musical collaboration between Norwegian producers Hans-Peter Lindstrøm and Prins Thomas.

Their style of music is often termed "space disco" with influences including electro, fusion, prog and krautrock.



a.Pa.t.T

a.P.A.t.T. have been baffling audiences for nearly ten years now, stretching the constraints of what a musician is expected to be whilst constantly pushing their practice into new uncharted areas.



Nicholas Jaar

Nicolas Jaar is a Chilean-American composer and recording artist based in New York

He is known in the club world for his various dance 12" EPs he put out from 2008 to 2011. Since his first album, he has embarked on more explorative directions, performing a 5 hour improvisational concert at PS1 releasing a large volume of experimental recordings through his label 'Other People'



Karin Dreijer Andersson

Karin Elisabeth Dreijer Andersson is a Swedish musician. She was one-half of the electronic music duo The Knife.

Her self titled solo album Fever Ray was released in 2009



Sigur Ros

Sigur Ros are an Icelandic post-rock band from Reykjavik, who have been active since 1994.

Known for their ethereal sound, frontman Jonsi Birgisson's falsetto vocals, and the use of bowed guitar, the band's music is also noticeable for its incorporation of classical and minimalist aesthetic elements

