



## PRESS RELEASE > 01

EN

**SIGNAL** is an international festival that mixes performances, contemporary sound art and concerts. It is a project that combines music references of great historical value with research experiences that go beyond genres and that cross wide sound spaces, analysing languages and suggesting new forms.

SIGNAL is avant-garde music, experimentation, improvisation and electronics. It offers a diverse outlook on research in the fields of video, performance and live media.

This year SIGNAL consists of two pre-festival events and a programme of concerts that takes place in December: talented and international renown musicians and artists are meeting in Cagliari to stimulate innovation through their projects, comparisons and collaboration.

After last winter's successful opening, SIGNAL's second edition programme is now set. Once again live music will be mixed with video-art and with video-acoustic installations, which can be enjoyed – this time as a group exhibition – in the setting of the Ex Vetreria premises.

SIGNAL explores the dimension of 'sound' through contemporary research in which rules and experience interact in a continuous questioning of compositional presuppositions, which in fact represents the starting point for any artistic idea which is devoted to experimentation and wide open to innovation.

SIGNAL is a project by TiConZero curated by Alessandro Olla, sponsored by the Councillor's Office for Cultural Activities of the Region of Sardinia, in collaboration with Cagliari City Council, Quartucciu City Council, the Conservatoire of Cagliari and with the Norwegian Embassy in Italy - MIC.

## SIGNAL PREFESTIVAL

**8 September.** SIGNAL presents a unique event/concert, that will be an adrenalin-based sample of the emotions that are to follow during the upcoming second edition in December: the epoch-making American artist – precursor of industrial music – **Z'EV** in concert. His music is obscure, strong, mystic, for an audience with steel-moulded and Swiss-watch-like refined ears. His outwardly hellish 'ambient' music actually hides an all-absorbing and visionary contemporary musician's deep artistic sensitivity.

**14 September. David Cossin** in concert. The percussionist and composer from New York, also curator for Lecce-based SoundRes Festival (with which SIGNAL has been twinned since its first edition) will play with **Modular Ensemble**, a percussion band set up at the Cagliari Conservatoire. Cossin is an experimenter of music technologies as well as of instruments which he himself invents. He has played and recorded with composers such as Tan Dun, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Terry Riley, with bands such as Bang on a Can All Stars, Talujon Percussion Quartet, The New Music Consort, New Band, Zen Tricksters, with musicians such

as Yo Yo Ma, Cecil Taylor, Meredith Monk, Bo Diddley, Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth), Ziggy Marley and many others.

## SIGNAL CONCERTS

**30 November.** The **Syntax Error** will set up the soundtrack of “**In the Shadow of No Towers**”, an animation film based on Art Spiegelman's graphic novel of the same name which is presented here as a preview. They will sweep among different music grammars, choosing – as usual – to move in the unstable and surprising field of improvisation. The ensemble is composed by musicians whose artistic backgrounds are unique and who move naturally from academic circles to the most innovative and experimental ones: Marco Cappelli / guitars; Daniele Ledda / electronics; Alessandro Olla / sound objects; Roberto Pellegrini / percussion instruments.

“IN THE SHADOW OF NO TOWER- after Art Spiegelman”. Concept by: Marco Cappelli, Maria Isabel Gouverneur, Anne Rothschild. Video Art by: Anne Rothschild. Graphic Art by: Maria Isabel Gouverneur.

**Art Spiegelman** is best known for his (auto)biographical graphic novel “Maus”, that was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize in 1992. He has also been founder of the comics and graphic design magazine *Raw*, contributor for important American magazines and newspapers such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *The Village Voice* as well as teacher at the School of Visual Arts in NY. For him, tales come into existence when individual and world history clash. That was also true for his tale about the 9/11 attack *In the Shadow of No Towers*, a proper image diary of that fatal day he personally experienced.

**1 December.** SIGNAL offers a proper Dada-style pressing and surprising dialogue between the projection of three film experiments by Man Ray and the ensemble **Dissonanzen**, born in 1993 in Naples with the intention of disclosing the most engaged music of the twentieth century. «Music is conceived as improvisation carried out according to a study on “reactions” to images through the technique of free association of ideas. Starting off from Erik Satie's music – especially his piano compositions – and restoring the “sound” of the projection room of the time, the performance will go on with a progressive “pulverizing” of the music material (melodic parenthesis, chord elements, rhythmical micro-structures); by doing so, it will develop the elements that come from Satie's works at an informal and improvisatory level, also extending them to all of the group's instruments – including electronic processing. Therefore, the game is also revealed as continuous shifting from chronological synchrony to asynchrony in relation to the film and references to the “perfume” of that age and gaps towards a more unconventional musical interpretation.»

**2 December.** Performance by **Taxonomy**, an electroacoustic/electronic music trio that was founded in 2003 and is composed by Elio Martuscello (guitar, laptop and electronic devices), Graziano Lella (laptop), Roberto Fega (samplers and electronic devices). The group moves between composition and improvisation through syncretism among different musical codes, exploring places that can not be found in any map, morphological similarities between thoughts and micro-organisms, and the strange correlation between letters of forgotten alphabets and globalized (displaced) languages. In their tales, books, the alphabet, signs, as well as (organic and inorganic) chemistry, geography, religion, politics and travels only seem to be views of experiences, of a dream or of an aspiration. All this results in highlighting extremely rich details between silent textures and screechy noise.

**7 December.** Electronic composer **Gianluca Becuzzi** – also known as Kinetix – in concert together with **Fabio Orsi** (field recordings, samples, radio-tv frequencies, and sound objects). In the last twenty years they have produced several discographic publications (the applauded “Osci” by Fab, the CDs by Kinetix), and performances under various names. Becuzzi and Orsi's artistic production, which is highly esteemed by critics and by a niche audience, called overseas at the American Digitalis Industries. The duo's work is characterized by a strong experimental component and by an interest in the possibilities of expression provided by digital technology, with Becuzzi's definite aesthetic propensity towards minimalist forms and micronoise sonorities being “warmed up” by Orsi's humanistic electronics and his more melodious and instinctive sonority .

**8 December.** Australian pianist **Peter Waters** – one of the most genre-crossing and competent musicians on the international scene – in concert. He studied in Australia, then with Peter Wallfisch in London, where he won the Royal College of Music first prize. After his beginning at the Salzburger Festspiele, he performed on several tours as soloist or in duos in Russia, Europe and Australia. Peter Waters' heart lies particularly with Mozart, Fauré and twentieth century music. As a member of Collegium Novum (Zurich), he works with composers such as Kagel, Pärt, Gubaidulina, Schuller, Reimann and Crumb. He is a keen music experimenter, whose performances are marked by the comparison between the code of classical and that of improvised music, balanced on a knife edge between idiomatic interpretation and a free flow of creativity.

**9 December.** **IN-STRU-MENTAL** is a concert performed by a young electroacoustic orchestra that carries on research into new composition languages through real time interaction. They alternate in different groups, following a network of patterns in which they move freely while going through constantly evolving and reorganizing mobile structures. Repetition and deconstruction of the tone and composition rules are integral parts of their work “ The density of repetitive low-fidelity sound events in our world has led us to the loss of the habit of listening to details, and inattention becomes epitomized in the psychology of listening, which is more and more contaminated and influenced by a LO-FI sound environment. IN-STRU-MENTAL is also an intervention between installation and performance, that can be enjoyed both as main figure and as background of something else that would happen anyway. »

**12 December.** An event not to be missed will coincide with the exhibition /segnali video: **Max Eastley's** performance. This epoch-making conceptual artist of the English avant-garde has been working for decades combining kinetic sound sculptures and music, getting to the creation of a unique art form. Eastley has been an important and innovative character in the field of sound art since the 60s, when he was ravished by the relationship between music and art. He has exhibited his sound installations all over the world and has worked together with a great number of artists, musicians and filmmakers, such as Brian Eno, Peter Greenaway, Evan Parker, Thomas Köner, Eddie Prévost and The Spaceheads. Together with the musician and writer David Toop, he has worked on the production of various albums that have been cheered by international critics (New and Rediscovered Musical Instruments 1975, Buried Dreams 1994 and Doll Creature 2004).

-

**12 December.** **SIGNAL/segnali video**, curated by Elisa Marras, opens in the premises of Vetreria Theatre in Cagliari-Pirri. There will be installations and videos by **Riccardo Benassi**, **Gabriel Shalom**, **signorafranca**, **Michele Spranghero**, an extra-project by **Lucilla Trapazzo** (curated by A. Olla) and a selection of videoart from SIGNAL first edition (Nico Vascellari, Shoggoth, Michael Fliri, Francesco Lauretta, Nark BKB, Dafne Boggeri, mercoledì, Bulba, Andrea Dojmi, Al:Arm!).

**12 December.** On the occasion of the opening of /segnali video **Riccardo Benassi** will set up "memory pilfers space", an electroacoustic performance based on the continuous change of non-amplified sound in which he makes use of a vintage set of harmonicas of the late 70s. Benassi's production ranges smoothly from visual to sound art. Videos, environments and installations investigate functions and malfunctions in technology through analogue mechanisms: object errors and semantic short circuits celebrate a guided repetition of free will. Since 2006 he has been working on the audio/video environment project OLYVETTY and since 2005 he has been working with Xing as curator for Phonorama, a Live Media laboratory and an 'expanding-desk' platform for acoustic and electronic improvisation.

**14 December.** SIGNAL presents a surprising encounter with **Mira Calix**, a versatile artist and a sophisticated creator of sound emotions. She experiments with a mixture of vocal executions and electronic textures, achieving rarefied atmospheres whose sounds remind of water, insects, discord, micronoise and nature's calls. She scores a large amount of participation in international festivals (Pollinaria, Dead Wedding in the North, Nottingham, Manchester International Festival, Royal Festival Hall, Aldeburgh Festival, Ether Festival London) and in commissioned music projects (London Sinfonietta, Musuem Naturelle d'Histoire de Geneve, The National Theatre of London, Barbican Art Gallery London). She has formed the ensemble Alexander's Annexe together with the pianist Sarah Nicolls and with the sound designer David Sheppard. As

a performer and dj she has worked with artists such as Radiohead, Plaid, Godspeed You! Black Emperor and Aphex Twin.

**15 December.** As in completing a circular tour, the festival closes with contemporary percussion – different in approach and origins, though – with one of the most interesting European groups: the Norwegian ensemble **SISU**. Led by Tomas Nilsson and Rolf Lennart Stensø, SISU is an artistic project in which the number of members and of genres changes at every new production, thus building up a real heritage of musical experiences during the last ten years. The main characteristic of the project is the pursuit of close collaboration between Norwegian and international composers on one side and the different musicians involved each time on the other.

### **SIGNAL FESTIVAL**

where: Vetreteria Theatre, Cagliari Pirri / Auditorium of the Conservatoire of Cagliari / Grotte delle Cinque Colonne, Cagliari / Casa Angioni, Quartucciu Cagliari.

when: 30 November - 15 December 2007

concerts time: 21.30

art director: Alessandro Olla

arts board: Simon Balestrazzi, Daniele Ledda, Elisa Marras, Elio Martusciello, Gianluigi Mattiotti, Roberto Pellegrini

organizers: TiConZero

musicians: Z'EV (USA), David Cossin (USA), Modular Ensemble (I), Syntax Error (I), Dissonanzen (I), Taxonomy (I), Gianluca Becuzzi + Fabio Orsi (I), Peter Waters (CDN), IN-STRU-MENTAL (I), Max Eastley (UK), Mira Calix (ZA/UK), SISU (N).

### **/segnali video**

where: Vetreteria, Cagliari Pirri

when: from 12 to 15 December 2007

opening: 12 December 19.00, Vetreteria, Cagliari Pirri

artists: Riccardo Benassi (I/D), Gabriel Shalom (USA/D), signorafranca (I), Michele Spanghero (I)

extra project Lucilla Trapazzo (CH) curated by A. Olla

opening event: "memory pilfers space" sound performance by Riccardo Benassi

curated by: Elisa Marras

### **PROGRAMME**

08.09. Z'EV – Grotte delle Cinque Colonne – **PREFESTIVAL**

14.09. David Cossin + Modular Ensemble – Auditorium of the Conservatoire – **PREFESTIVAL**

30.11. Syntax Error – Casa Angioni

01.12. Dissonanzen – Casa Angioni

02.12. Taxonomy – Vetreteria Theatre

07.12. Gianluca Becuzzi + Fabio Orsi – Grotte delle Cinque Colonne

08.12. Peter Waters – Casa Angioni

09.12. IN-STRU-MENTAL – Casa Angioni

12.12. Max Eastley – Vetreteria – h 20.30

14.12. Mira Calix – Vetreteria Theatre

15.12. SISU – Vetreteria Theatre

Grotte delle Cinque Colonne: Via Vittorio Veneto, Cagliari

Auditorium of the Conservatoire of Cagliari: Via Bacareda/Piazza Ennio Porrino, Cagliari

Casa Angioni: Via Neghelli, Quartucciu Cagliari

Vetreteria Theatre: Via Italia, Pirri Cagliari

[www.signal-festival.org](http://www.signal-festival.org)

Infoline +39 347 7044979 / +39 347 9194504 / [info@signalfestival.org](mailto:info@signalfestival.org)

Press office: Riccardo Sgualdini ph +39 070 303148 / +39 393 9392635 / [pressoffice@signal-festival.org](mailto:pressoffice@signal-festival.org)