



Noam Bierstone • Ben Duinker • Alexander Haupt • Alessandro Valiante



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ABOUT

The Montreal-based quartet **ARCHITEK PERCUSSION** creates musical experiences that entertain, captivate, and challenge audiences, often simultaneously. Founded in 2012 by graduates of McGill University, Architek quickly established itself as equally comfortable in performing classic repertoire and exploring new terrain through commissions and premieres. Architek regularly performs in Montreal, having partnered with Codes d'Acces, Innovations en Concert, Le Vivier, Suoni per Il Popolo, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, the Pointe-a-Calliere Museum, and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT). In addition, the quartet has performed extensively in the context of the Montreal Arts Council's *CAM En Tournée* program, which presents free, accessible arts programming in the city's 19 boroughs and 15 on-island suburbs.

Architek has toured across Canada multiple times, concertizing and providing outreach activities in conjunction with New Music Edmonton, the Winnipeg New Music Festival, The Cluster Festival of Music and Integrated Art (Winnipeg), Jeunesses Musicales Canada, Debut Atlantic, The University of Toronto New Music Festival, The Music Gallery (Toronto), and the Scotia Festival of Music (Halifax). In 2021, Architek partnered with Suoni Per Il Popolo to present the inaugural UnDrum Festival, a multi-day event showcasing artists dedicated to pushing the frontiers of drum set performance. Architek has commissioned and/or premiered over 50 works by composers from Canada, France, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, USA, and the UK. Architek's diverse repertoire is presented in a manner inspired by the quartet's belief that given proper context, every audience member should feel welcomed and included through the performance of contemporary art music.



MEMBERS



NOAM BIERSTONE is a Canadian percussionist and curator dedicated to modern artistic performance and the creation and development of new music, Noam's main projects include his saxophone & percussion duo scapegoat, the Montreal performance series NO HAY BANDA, and Architek percussion quartet. Noam pursues ongoing collaborations with various composers and artists, with a particular interest in works that expand the notion of percussion playing through new techniques, hybrid instruments, and performer-controlled electronics. Noam is regularly invited to perform at international festivals and with leading new music groups, and in his spare time he enjoys cooking, biking, and doing yoga.

MEMBERS



BEN DUINKER pursues a dual career in performance and academics. As a solo percussionist he has won prizes in competitions such as the OSM Standard Life Competition, PASIC Solo Percussion Competition, and the Prix D'Europe. His playing has been described as displaying “breath-holding physical grace” (Chronicle Herald) and as “revealing exceptional dexterity and precision” (La Presse). Duinker holds a Master of Music (percussion) and PhD (music theory) from McGill University, and recently completed a SSHRC-funded postdoc at the University of Toronto, where his research intersected analysis, performance, and pedagogy of contemporary music.

MEMBERS



Born and raised in charming little Luxembourg, percussionist **ALEXANDER HAUPT** has made sounds and noise his speciality. He is at home in many musical genres, such as rock, jazz, and chamber and orchestral music from the 16th century onward. Haupt has performed on many of Quebec's stages, namely the Maison Symphonique (Montreal), the Grand Théâtre de Québec, Festival de Lanaudière, and Domaine Forget with Orchestre Metropolitain, Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières, Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, collectif9, Sixtrum Percussion Ensemble, and many others. He holds a MMus in Percussion from McGill University.

MEMBERS



ALESSANDRO VALIANTE has been immersed in his native Montreal's beautiful and diverse culture since birth. He is a versatile percussionist, active in genres ranging from chamber music, rock, musical theatre, world music, to hip-hop. Valiante was a featured soloist in the Random Walks Xenakis Festival (Toronto) and has frequently collaborated with Sixtrum (Montreal). He holds a bachelor and master of music performance from McGill University, where he established himself as a specialist in the chamber repertoire of Steve Reich, Iannis Xenakis, David Lang, and John Cage and worked with a diverse set of composers including Vinko Globokar and Thierry De May.

PROGRAMS

CONNECTIVE TISSUE

Connective Tissue weaves together folklore and nostalgia in a way that both foregrounds the role technology and digital culture play in our lives today and predicates itself on the fundamentally communal—and connective—nature of human interaction. Works by John PSATHAS (New Zealand), Wojceich KILAR (Poland), and Canadians Eliot BRITTON, Myriam BOUCHER, and Nicole LIZÉE are augmented with video created principally by Myriam BOUCHER, leading audience members through a 70-minute audio-visual experience.

BLIPS AND BEATS

Featuring repertoire composed for or inspired by the drumset, Blips and Beats explores a world where rhythm is king. This program showcases works that groove in unconventional ways, exploiting the vast possibilities of four drumsets alongside one another. Experience the dramatic juxtaposition of grooves moving in different tempi, drummers shifting into and out of phase with each other, and the excitement of dense rhythmic counterpoint. Includes works by Dennis DESANTIS, Andy PAPE, Julia WOLFE, Duncan SCHOUTEN, and Beavan FLANAGAN.

MARIMBA PLUS

This diverse program for mallet instruments draws its inspiration from video game music, mass transportation, flamenco music, electronica, the Russian choral tradition, and middle eastern music. Featuring repertoire from three continents, this program showcases subtle nuance not commonly associated with percussion playing, and highlights Architek's skill as arrangers and composers in their own right. Includes works by Eliot BRITTON, Aurel HOLLO, Christos HATZIS, Ben DUINKER, Nico MUHLY, and John PSATHAS.

THE MEANING OF A FORMAT

In the Meaning of a Format, works by Eliot BRITTON and Adam BASANTA find novel and expressive ways to integrate recorded sound from varietal sources (from Tin Pan Alley records to household appliances) with percussion instruments and consumer electronics such as synthesizers, radios, vintage lamps, and hand-held drum machines. The resulting kaleidoscopic tapestry blurs the boundaries between human and machine, popular and avant-garde, timbre and pitch, and analog and digital. The music comprising this program has been recorded and released on the *DAME/Ambiances Magnétiques* and *Centrediscs* labels.

OBJECT PROJECT

The premise behind the concert's theme is simple: no traditional percussion instruments are used in any of the compositions. Instead, the performers utilize various household, quotidian, or custom-built objects combined with amplification, live electronics, and pre-recorded fixed electronics. The excitement behind developing and performing repertoire using objects in place of instruments lies in the creation of sound worlds not conceivable with traditional instruments. Includes works by Fredrik GRAN, Gyrid Nordal KALDESTAD, and James O'CALLAGHAN.

REMIXES (w/ Sarah Albu, Soprano)

The repertoire featured in the Remixes project asks a central question: what signifiers, connotations, and identifiers associated with everyday sounds—not necessarily sounds we might classify as musical—are retained when those sounds are decontextualized? Sample recordings of rhythmic patterns heard in everyday life, such as pulsation of an MRI machine, the periodic ticking and grunting of an old photocopier, and the irregular pulsation of an old air conditioning unit are analyzed and transcribed, and the rhythms that result from them are expanded into a work which unites percussion, consumer electronics such as synthesizers and drum machines, and vocals with processing. Featuring compositions by Architek Percussion, Sarah ALBU, Patrick HART, and Greg HARRISON.

TESTIMONIALS

“l'un des enregistrements [*Metatron*] les plus rafraîchissants entendu depuis longtemps”

- *Voir.ca*

“*Metatron* is a thrilling record”

- *The Whole Note*

“they flawlessly moved through the aggressively fast and equally demanding piece with incredibly tight ensemble”

- *Sequenza 21*

“Quirky, virtuosic, and thoroughly engaging”

- *Bachtrack.com*

“one of the most extraordinary, confrontational and often gorgeous trips through timbral history that I've encountered”

- *Squid's Ear*

“Grâce à ces jeunes compositeurs canadiens, l'ensemble montréalais renouvelle le genre de la «pièce pour percussion» avec brio”

- *Voir.ca*

