

Curious Voice Duo:



- Two voices in childlike and unified exploration
- Present innovative acoustic vocal music
- Bring their audience captivating and intimate concert experiences

The two performing and composing voice musicians Elisabeth Nygaard and Maria Jardardottir have incredibly varied musical and individual backgrounds, but their common ground is their mutual enormous and childlike curiosity for their instrument; the voice. They see the voice as an ever lasting mystery, and through playing with it musically, as in a child's playing, they are in company continuously astonished to discover new, secret depths and surfaces of its being and behaviour.

Curious Voice Duo was founded in 2004 and has since the beginning enjoyed an active agenda with regular concerts and promising, accelerating attention especially from abroad. The duo has already shared scenes with internationally renowned musicians as Paul Hession, Wally Shoup, Blaise Siwula and Matthew Bourne. The agenda for 2007 contains the release of their debut album "At the Tip and the Root of the Tongue" and furthermore the two dedicated voice musicians are aspiring to carry out concert and festival engagements both in Norway and abroad.

The duo's musical expression lies closely to jazz and contemporary music with influences from a vast range of vocal expressions and techniques from varied experimental and ethnic sources, - and, with improvisation as the obvious core element; free as well as structured and guided. In their efforts, the two voice musicians strive to explore their instrument in ways that cross the limits of the traditional role of the voice; as a melodic instrument. What they aim for is to put equal weight and challenge to aspects such as rhythm, harmony and the vast possibilities of sonic attributes that the voice potentially can produce.

Curious Voice Duo's music and concerts have been generously and shamelessly spoken of amongst both audiences and press as offering everything from musical and human revelations to boundlessly different beauty and frightfully, vocal sonic phenomena in sweet unification.

Contact details for booking or other enquiries:

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Curious Voice Duo's website can be found in the left hand menu at:

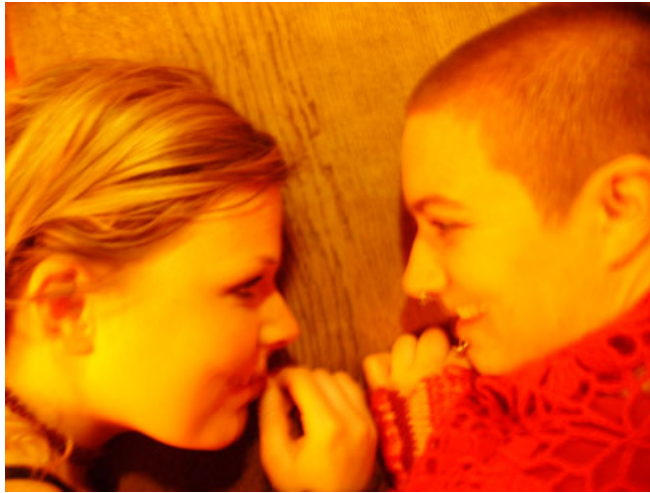
<http://www.maria-jardardottir.com> or <http://www.myspace.com/curiousvoiceduo>

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Press:



Review of concert:

**The Curious Voice Duo /
Wally Shoup & Paul Hession**

May the 27th 2005 at The Adelphi, Leeds, England – a concert arranged by the forum for experimental and improvised music; The Termite Club.

“... Speaking of magical, providing the meat (excuse the analogy) in tonight's Termite Club sandwich are the Curious Voice Duo. They comprise of two (clever, that, isn't it) Norwegians currently studying in Leeds. Quite unassuming and shy - I've no idea whether this is their first performance - Elisabeth Nygaard and Maria Jardardottir introduce themselves. What follows is quite simply the most spine-tingly beautiful and DIFFERENT collection of sounds I have ever witnessed at a Termite gig...

Four or five pieces of semi-improvised/semi-composed vocalese. A capella singing. Mutant barbershop harmonising. Stretching words until they lose their original meaning, intonation and cadence; live human sampling and looping, only without the machine interface. A natural take on Alvin Lucier's 'I Am Sitting In A Room' only speeded up. Elisabeth and Maria, repeating lines and then breaking out. Think Phil Minton, Yoko Ono, Patty Waters, Diamanda Galas, hell - think Bobby Mc-fucking-Ferrin as sung by Bjork. This is all clichéd, but what I heard WAS NOT A CLICHÉ. Orgasmic hiccups, groans, whispers, tongue-clicks/pops: the shrieks of climax (sorry, another cliché). Absolutely sublime!”

- Jamie Stephenson, <http://www.sandmanmagazine.co.uk/>

**Excerpt from feature on LIMA - Leeds Improvised Music Association in Sandman Magazine:
Published October 2005.**

“... If nothing else, you should check out the Curious Voice Duo, in which the quite extraordinary vocal talents of Maria Jardardottir and Elisabeth Nygard can be heard at their most stunning.”

- Johnny Ersatz-Culture, <http://www.sandmanmagazine.co.uk/>

Review of concert:

**The Conquistador/Curious Voice Duo /Paul Hession & Jeffrey Morgan.
Den 25. October 2006 at The Wardrobe, Leeds, England.**

The British percussionist and drummer Paul Hession, internationally well acknowledged for his contributions and impact on avant-garde and freely improvised music, invited Curious Voice Duo to be one of the three ensembles featured at the concert celebrating Hession's 50th birthday arranged by LIMA (Leeds Improvised Music Association) at the jazz club The Wardrobe, Leeds, UK.

"I imagine you'd normally run a mile from any gig designed to celebrate the 50th birthday of an unassuming geezer who looks like somebody's boring uncle. Ordinarily, I'd probably agree with you, but seeing as its Leeds born and bred improvising percussion maestro Paul Hession's 50th birthday, then the only reason I can think that you'd run a mile from such a gig would be that you're a dull, unimaginative indie kid.

A product of the LIMA collective that Hession currently plays a major role in, the Curious Voice Duo represent one aspect of where he's currently at. And Elisabeth Nygaard and Maria Jardardottir really are like nothing you've ever heard before. They sing pieces rooted in their native Norwegian language and folk culture that weave composition and improvisation seamlessly together. Leavened with wordless yelps, grunts, ecstatic shrieks, the occasional English lyric and scat-like octave leaping, the intricate arrangements often eerily suggest a third disembodied voice is making a contribution. Powerful and playful and searching in ways only women can be. A hugely enjoyable night."

- Johnny Ersatz-Culture, <http://www.sandmanmagazine.co.uk/>

CV and

Agenda:



CONCERTS

- March the 22nd 2005: The Wardrobe, Leeds, UK
- April the 13th 2005: The Adelphi, Leeds, UK
- May the 18th 2005: Holy Trinity Church, Leeds, UK
- May the 27th 2005: The Adelphi, Leeds, UK
- June the 2nd 2005: The George, Leeds, UK
- June the 9th 2005: The Venue, Leeds, UK
- October the 17th 2005: Two concerts at The Venue, Leeds, UK
- November the 25th 2005: The Fenton, Leeds, UK. Part of a festival arranged by the forum for experimental and improvised music; The Termite Club
- March the 10th 2006: Acoustic concert in Holy Trinity Church, Leeds, UK
- March the 24th 2006: Concert at the Leeds International Jazz Conference 2006, Leeds, UK
- October the 25th 2006: CVD performed a concert at The Wardrobe, Leeds, UK, as part of a night celebrating Paul Hession at 50.
- November the 17th 2006: The duo performed as part of a triple bill concert alongside acts from f-ire COLLECTIVE featuring Oriole and Ingrid Laubrock Quintet at The National Center For Early Music, York, UK.
- December the 7th 2006: Concert at The Adelphi, Leeds, UK
- March the 8th 2007: Booked by the NCM room for a concert at The Packhorse, Leeds, UK.
- March the 16th 2007: The duo was booked by Music Orbit and Kerry Andrew for the event Gobsmack featuring explorative voice work. The other artists featured were Juice Vocal Ensemble, Jamie Woon, Jenni Roditi og WanDan. The Spitz, London, UK.
- March the 19th 2007: Curious Voice Duo was one of the essembles that part took in the launching of a new acoustic concert series, LIMAcoustic, arranged by LIMA - Leeds Improvised Music Association in Holy Trinity Church, Leeds, UK.

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RECORDINGS

- March 2007: The duo released their debut album “At the Tip and the Root of the Tongue”. Full length release.

OTHER

- March the 24th 2006: Workshop/seminar at the Leeds International Jazz Conference 2006, Leeds, UK
- November the 30th 2006: The duo was featured in live performance at Leeds Annual Peace Poetry Competition, Leeds Civic Hall, UK
- December the 8th 2006: CVD part took in the dance, performance and music event Mamuska held at Yorkshire Dance Centre; Leeds, UK

FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS

- The duo is currently working on bookings for festivals and engagements 2007 and 2008.

The Members:



Elisabeth Nygaard

Elisabeth Nygaard is a composing and performing voice musician with a Bachelor and Master Degree in Jazz and Contemporary Studies from Leeds College of Music, England. Through her Master course she studied with the Norwegian improvisation musician and composer Didrik Ingvaldsen – which resulted in an ongoing duo collaboration. In addition to the different duos Nygaard is part of she also runs the septet "Punch Drunk Bitch" where she both works as performer and composer of all written musical material. In this septet song-based, composed material is combined with free and open improvisation to form a product which works equally good for dancing listeners in a club as for sitting down audiences in concert venues. Nygaard is also member of the band "Kitchen Orchestra" based in Stavanger, Norway, which consists of musicians like Tor Yttredal, Nils Henrik Aaseheim, Tor Mattisrud and Didrik Ingvaldsen. Elisabeth works freelance as a musician combined with engagements as a teacher and work shop leader.



Maria Jardardottir

Maria Jardardottir works as freelance performing and composing musician with international engagements. In 2005 she graduated with a Master degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music at Leeds College of Music where she also did her Bachelor degree in the same vocation. Besides "Curious Voice Duo" Maria has several more main projects and amongst them is the electro acoustic solo project "Melatonin", which she currently receives promising international attention for, and the vocal quartet "Røyst", with whom she has carried out several extensive tours with in Norway and in USA. Maria also regularly works in projects where diverse art genres are fused and has been commissioned as solo musician for various projects such as the dance piece "meet the mind that moves", a collaboration commissioned by the Roskilde Festival 2006, with choreographer and dancer Matilde Mørk, as well as sound installation projects alike the project "siren" with sound recordist Chris Watson and multimedia artist Alec Finlay. Jardardottir also works with mixing and mastering of CD projects and has till now been responsible for the three independent releases "Nordic Initiative" (Røyst 2005), "[Monotonine Meditasjoner – Monotonine Meditations]" (Melatonin 2004) and "Waves of Air and Seasons through Me" (Melatonin 2006). Maria has amongst others studied with electro acoustic composer and specialist in extended voice techniques, Trevor Wishart, and with classical Indian performer Jesse Bannister. She will in 2006/07 be in private tuition with Amelia Cuni, - Europe's only professional performer of the oldest Indian music tradition Dhrupad.

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