



Mark Wastell

Much of Mark Wastell's relationship with his chosen instrument is concentrated on the tactile, textural and sonic possibilities of both violoncello and bow. He is increasingly interested in working with extreme elements drawn from frequency, timbre and pitch.

His early activity was consciously and subconsciously influenced by a variety of improvising musicians. Subsequent exposure to contemporary composers lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of the works written for strings by Feldman, Cage, Nono, Lachenmann and Sciarrino. The use of live electronics and music concrete by Tudor, Parmegiani, Xenakis and others was another important early influence. In more recent times, Mark has also begun to explore sound material outside of the cello, working with contact mics, amplified textures and electronics.

Wastell's current instrumental material primarily focuses on using abstract principles of space, time and texture - encompassing elements of new London silence, pro-acoustic minimalism, new complexity and pan-global reductionism. Because of the very nature of his chosen instrument, he tends to favour 'chamber' style ensembles and has worked with a number of regular groups, including:

CHRIS BURN'S ENSEMBLE

with John Butcher [saxophones], Rhodri Davies [harp], John Russell [acoustic guitar] & Matt Hutchinson [synthesizers, electronics].

DEREK BAILEY'S COMPANY

with Will Gaines [tap dance], Simon Fell [double bass], Rhodri Davies [harp].

EVAN PARKER'S STRING PROJECT

with Peter Cusack [bazouki, electronics], Hugh Davies [homemade instruments], Rhodri Davies [harp], Phil Durrant [violin], John Edwards [double bass], Kaffe Matthews [sampler, electronics], Marcio Mattos [violoncello], John Russell [acoustic guitar] and others.

ASSUMED POSSIBILITIES

with Chris Burn [piano], Rhodri Davies [harp] & Phil Durrant [violin].

THE SEALED KNOT

with Burkhard Beins [percussion] & Rhodri Davies [harp].

IST

with Simon Fell [double bass] & Rhodri Davies [harp].

BROKEN CONSORT

with Rhodri Davies [harp] & Matt Davis [trumpet]

BELASKA

with Mattin [laptop electronics].

TRIO

with Matt Davies [trumpet], Phil Durrant [laptop electronics].

ADHOC COLLABORATIONS

Jerome Noetinger, Axel Dorner, Xavier Charles, Andrea Neumann, Martine Altenberger, Annette Krebbs, David Stackenas, Nikos Veliotis, Alessandro Bosetti, Ignaz Schick, Giuseppe Iesali, Ingar Zach, Toshi Nakamura, Taku Sugimoto, Tetuzi Akiyama, John Zorn, Keith Rowe, Peter Kowald, Roger Turner, Veryan Weston, Lol Coxhill, Mark Sanders, Hans Koch, Phil Minton, Max Eastley, Eddie Prevost, Steve Beresford & Louis Moholo.

As a soloist Mark has played at the Micro-classical Festival (London 1996), LMC Festival (London 2000) and the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (2000). He has travelled extensively with various groups, performing on tour and at festivals in the USA, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan and Greece.