

Marginal Consort
マージナル・コンソート

June 6th, 2016

St. Elisabeth Kirche — Invalidenstraße 3, 10115 Berlin

Doors 19 / Concert 19:30—22:30



Photos by Kazuyuki Funaki

A rare three-hour concert by the legendary avant-garde improvisational collective Marginal Consort.

Marginal Consort will play their first German show in June 6th in the beautiful St. Elisabeth Kirche. Founded in 1997, Marginal Consort plays one concert annually. In 2016 they will only play another show in Europe at the [South London Gallery](#).

Marginal Consort is a Japanese avant-garde improvisational collective made of sound and visual artists, who were all students of [Takehisa Kosugi](#) at the radical Bigaku school of aesthetics in Tokyo in the 70's. The group is a reformation of the [East Bionic Symphonia](#), who released an incredible long-form drone record in the early 80's, a large improvisation ensemble in the spirit of his Kosugi's Group Ongaku and [Taj Mahal Travellers projects](#).

Marginal Consort is formed around musicians, Kazuo Imai, (a student of Japanese Free Jazz linchpin Masayuki Takayanagi and also of both Taj Mahal Travellers and Takayanagi's New Direction Unit), Tomonao Koshikawa, Kei Shii, and Masami Tada (also in group GAP).

Their extended set explores forms of sound and ways of playing that never coalesce into music, but create a group dynamic of ebb and flow, of exploration and fluidity. Marginal Consort also featured previously artists Yasushi Ozawa, bassist in Keiji Haino's [Fushitsusha](#), and Chie Mukai, from dreamy psychedelic group Che-Shizu. With this cast on board, they took their free improvisation to the streets to create drones and percussive interplay in urban communal harmony.

“A form of sound that does not turn into music and a group that does not produce harmony; individual concepts and group fluidity; individuals who are at once independent entities and components of the whole; coexisting time frames and intersecting rhythms —these are among the images of group improvisation that have occupied my mind since the '70s. These images neither presuppose specific elements nor regulate the entire process. There always remain, however, the fundamental premises that sounds are separately produced phenomena and that their accumulation forms the whole”. — Kazuo Imai

Co-presented with [PAN](#). In collaboration with [3333](#). Supported by [Initiative Neue Musik e.V.](#)

Artists Biographies

Kei Shii

He has studied music from Takehisa Kosugi and art from Genpei Akasegawa at Bigakko between 1973-1975. He has made sound installations based on sound system and physics. He has been working as an engineer at ACAC in Aomori prefecture.

Masami Tada

He has worked in a group named "GAP" between 1974-1979. He has also joined Takehisa Kosugi's Ongaku Dojo at Bigakko in 1975. He has had many exhibitions as a photographer, too. He shot the same tree for 365 days and made the prints 20 years later for a solo exhibition at Pennings Gallery in Netherlands in 2000. In 1996 he had an exhibition "majime na circus (Serious Circus) where audience would look into a tent placed in a gallery. And he started checking the old festivals in Nepal since 2002 and made "Art- Full Nepal" event where he did performance with local artists in 2006.

Tomonao Koshikawa

He has joined Takehisa Kosugi's Ongaku Dojo at Bigakko in 1975. He had made some tape music with radio's tuning noise and analogue synthesizers. Later he has played in rock and jazz (big band and combo) bands, and been studying Indian music, Japanese singing songs, Baroque music, also collaborated with dancers till now.

Kazuo Imai

He has studied under Masayuki Takayanagi and Takehisa Kosugi and has been working mainly as an improviser since 1970 and started his "solo works" from 1991.

Fotos [here](#)

Videos

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRYyQ3sSYBQ>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6VFpuOmom4>
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz78Bgu_x_w
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XK1maNOOpSQ>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwCEeKs7oZE>
6. <https://vimeo.com/72401784>

Feature in The Wire: Download [hier](#)

Soundcloud Link [here](#)

Previous shows in Europe:

[Instal Glasgow](#)

[South London Gallery](#)

PAN Link [here](#)
