

# Slipway to galaxies 2008/09 Ireland / Lausanne & San Francisco

Two model examples of my work with orchestras or ensembles and graphical notation (Son-Icons) and video scores



The title "Slipway" refers to the launch in Rushbrooke in Southern Ireland. The largest of Ireland's ships have been built here. The Titanic took the first steps of its doomed journey on this slipway. Central to this composition are the forces of the high and low tides, the cosmos, the orbit of the planets, the creation of vast spaces with tremendous speed and ultimately the fusion of two musical galaxies. A journey through elemental forces and infinity.

## 1. Conducted, coordinated and inspired

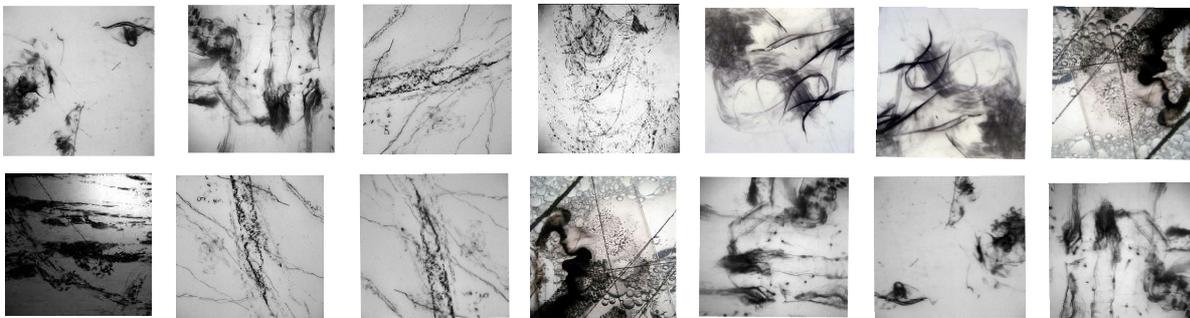
The one melodic galaxy, here only marginally hinted at through snatches of memories, is classically conducted. The other is conducted through a uniquely developed conducting language which is based on the "Conduction" of New York composer Butch Morris and further developed during more than ten years work with the London Improvisers Orchestra.

Through the **solo for viola and voice**, sounds resound from the Celtic "anderwelten". The conductor becomes the soloist (Ch. Hug). She is a melodic messenger from the Celtic "anderwelten", which are made accessible through the reference to Ireland and to the "anderwelten" cycle.

## 2. "Spatial dance"

After the solo the orchestra leaves the water element with the tide, withdraws into weightless space and embarks upon a "spatial dance". The musicians turn the Son-Icons in different directions by the conductor's hand gestures in order to be read and they can also be seen on the video-score (projected on a long projection screen which takes the shape of a slipway above the orchestra). The video-score, a live video-streaming with visual material taken from the Son-Icons incorporated into the score, was each time differently manipulated and each time appeared to be visibly new for both the orchestra and the audience.

During the performance these Son-Icons are rotated in a „spatial dance“



### 3. Fusion of two galaxies

The process of fusing together two galaxies represents the climactic point when the orchestra is divided into two melodic entities and temporarily conducted by two conductors. The two autonomous orchestras both go through a morphing process until finally the two meld into each other musically.

#### "Moment of the moments"

One of the last dockyard workers at Rushbrooke initiated me into "the moment of moments" which is the launching. These forty seconds are exceedingly dangerous. The year-long work of 1400 dockyard workers can be destroyed in these few seconds. This launching has a dramaturgy. These forty seconds, subdivided into detachment, rotation, tipping and flotation are played by the orchestra in real-time and interpreted creatively. The **"Slipway motif"** subsequently always recurs when the change-over takes place. The powers of the high and low tides are present in a range of variations and lend an element of structure throughout the piece.

#### "Holy Ground"

Melodies are very important in Ireland, particularly at sea. Here I discovered melody in a new and different way. After some days there the dockyard workers melancholically sang impassioned sea songs to me that I was also allowed to record. The most moving was the song "Holy Ground" ("Holy Ground" is what the area of Cophe near to Rushbrooke is called in the local vernacular). Here superstition and the help of rituals, chants and spirits play an influential role on the slipway. Shreds of memories of the song "Holy Ground" as well as of various, possible forms of folk music on the ship are quoted from (With thanks to Julien Gallant for the use of folk music citations)

#### Practises with the Rovate Ensemble Premiere at the *San Francisco International Festival of the Arts 09*



*UA Mai 09 version for Tentett at the San Francisco International Festival of the Arts 2009 with the Rovate-Ensemble: Saxophon Quartett: Larry Ochs, Jon Raskin, Andrew Voigt, Bruce Ackley, stringquartet: Carla Kihlstedt, Charlotte Hug, Joan Jeanrenad, Lisle Ellis, Thomas Lehn analogue synth., Kjyell Nordeson, drums, live Images Lillvevan*

#### Premiere at *Casino Montbenon Lausanne December 2008*



*UA December 08 "Slipway to Galaxies" was premiered at the Casino de Montbenon in Lausanne. Conducted by Philipp Krüttli and Charlotte Hug with the Grand-Eustache Orchestra, Soloist: Charlotte Hug Live video streaming Götz Rogge / recording and production: RSR espace 2 / Blaise Favre*