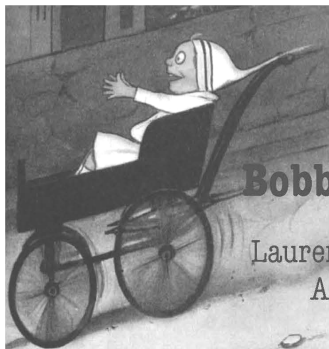


**SF duo**

presents:



**Bobby's go-cart**

Laurent Estoppey, saxophone  
Antoine Françoise, piano

Five world premieres by Rico Gubler, Hans-Jürg Meier,  
Laurent Estoppey and Antoine Françoise  
preceded and followed by two improvisations.

Guest Artist Recital

Monday, March 16, 2015

5:30 pm

Recital Hall, Music Building



**UNCG**

School of  
Music, Theatre *and* Dance

## *Program*

Laurent Estoppey and Antoine Françoise share the same passion for the music of our time and spend all their energy towards contemporary music through a busy career as soloists, chamber musicians, improvisers and composers. After the fundamental and simple desire to play together, the main starting point of the duo is to perform for the first time two works by Swiss composer Rico Gubler: *Slant Song* and *Lulu in a box*, the later was written for Laurent Estoppey in 2008. Because of their unusual and original forms, as well as their technical demand, the works were never performed and are still awaiting a premiere. Around these two pieces, Zurich-based composer Hans-Jürg Meier is being commissioned a brand new work. But both performers wish to showcase their skills through two improvisations and two new solo compositions written for one another.

### **The *Slant Song* and *Lulu in a box* by Rico Gubler**

These two works belong to the 2008/2009 piano and saxophone cycle *Book of crime*. In both pieces, the performers are asked to go beyond their instrumental skills, using their voices as a new mean of expression.

In *The Slant Song*, both musicians complete the rich and demanding instrumental writing with the story of Bobby's adventure on his go-cart, a children story written in 1910, narrated in a slam/rap manner. As of *Lulu in a box*, a low-fi diffusion is played from inside the piano, from which emerge a text and a second piano voice. The work revisits Hölderlin's play, *Lulu*

### **Commission to Hans-Jürg Meier**

Composer Hans-Jürg Meier has great knowledge of the saxophone. We owe him some essential pieces from the saxophone repertoire such as *Couleurs de la rose* (1999-2001) for saxophone, oboe and flute, *Nodo* (2002-2004) and *Cerchio sul Cielo* (2005) for saxophone quartet. His music is deeply connected to the modern expressions yet takes also considerable inspiration in ancient music.

Remembering Eric Gaudibert's oboe concerto « *su fondamenta invisibili* », written in two parts played before and after the interval, Laurent Estoppey suggested to Hans-Jürg Meier to follow the same unusual concept, playing with the audience's memory and perception.

### **Two solos**

On a regular basis, both Laurent Estoppey and Antoine Françoise extend their musical horizon and compose on top of their performing activity. Concert music, installations, concepts or collaboration with visual artists, their approach to composition essentially takes source in their experience as performers.

For this particular project, they have challenged each other to write a solo piece for the other performer respecting the general context of the concert.

## Two improvisations

Both improvisers, the performers wish to add a spontaneous character to the concert. At the same time very personal but also adequately adapted to each concert venue and context, they present an improvisation at the beginning and at the end of the concert. The first one, still fresh and unchallenged by the repertoire to come, will become a real exploration of each particular venue as well a projection of the trajectory of the whole concert.

The later will close the concert. Compared to the first one, the second improvisation will be charged with the energy and the near memory of the pieces played beforehand.

## The programme is then presented in mirror form :

Improvisation

Lulu in a Box

Rico Gubler

Solo 1 (piano or saxophone, to be decided) Laurent Estoppey / Antoine François

New work (1st part)

Hans-Jürg Meier

\*\*\* *interval* \*\*\*

New work (2nd part)

Hans-Jürg Meier

Solo 2 (piano or saxophone, to be decided) Laurent Estoppey / Antoine François

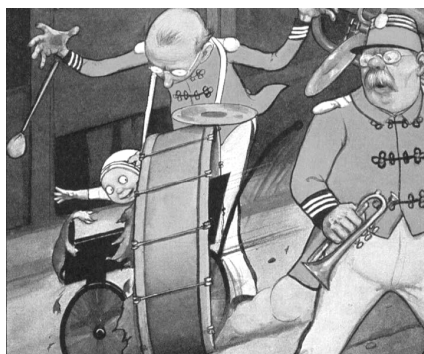
The slant song

Rico Gubler

Improvisation

« Where Bobby lives there is a hill  
A hill so steep and high  
'Twould fill the bill for Jack and Jill  
Their famous act to try

Once Bobby's Go-cart broke away  
And down the hill it kited.  
The careless nurse screamed in dismay  
But Bobby was delighted »...



Peter Newell, *The Slant Book* (1910), used by R. Gubler for *The Slant Song*

## **Rico Gubler**

[www.ricogubler.ch](http://www.ricogubler.ch)

Having studied saxophone with Iwan Roth in Basle, with Marcus Weiss in Zurich and with Jean-Michel Goury in Paris, Rico Gubler started to specialize in contemporary music, free improvisation and in the live performance of electronic music. In 1997 and 1998 he was awarded the student prize by the Migros Co-operative Association (Migros Genossenschaftsbund) and the Ernst Göhner Foundation. After this, he studied composition with Balz Trümpy in Basle and Salvatore Sciarrino in Florence. In 1998 he won the Prize of the Club de mécénat suisse en France. He was supported by grants from the Künstlerhof Schreyan in Lower Saxony (2001), the Landis & Gyr Foundation and from the Royal Academy in London (2001/02). In 2004 he was awarded a working year from the city of Zurich and a grant from the Dr. Robert and Lina Thyll-Dürr Foundation. In addition to performances as a soloist at the Donaueschinger Musiktage, the Steirischer Herbst, Wien Modern, the Salzburger Festspiele, the MaerzMusik Berlin and the Biennale München, Rico Gubler has played in various chamber music formations. Through his work, he has developed artistic contacts with the Klangforum Wien, the Ensemble Aventure, the Ensemble Phoenix Basel, the SWR orchestra Baden-Baden, the Tonhalle Orchester Zurich, the Kammerorchester München, the Orchestre de chambre de Neuchâtel and the Philharmonische Werkstatt Schweiz. Since 2004 Rico Gubler teaches saxophone at the Lugano music conservatoire. He lives and works in Zurich.!

## **Hans-Jürg Meier**

- Raised in Rüschikon / ZH, lives in Basel.

- Studied recorder under the tutelage of Conrad Steinmann at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis and composition under Roland Moser at Basel School of music.

Since 1991 - Compositions, from 1995 onwards came thereto sound installations and, in 1998, free improvised music

1997 until 2001 - Collaborates on the project Kaskadenkondensator, Basel

1999 until 2004 - Collaborates in the artistic direction of the Festival for Improvised and Composed Contemporary Music

2001 - Wins the Swiss Association of Musicians' Marguerite de Reding Prize with the improvisation quartet 'Babels Besen'

2004/05 - Member of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma (ISR) with a working residency at the Spazio culturale des ISR Venice in 2006

Translations from architecture play an ever-increasing role in the compositions of Hans-Jürg Meier. On the one hand side the power of imagination is of fundamental importance in both arts. On the other both address the holistic invention of forms that develop in time and /or space. His compositions are bound in the coaction of nature, form and beauty in an attempt to provide a quasi-tangible experience of the sensible qualities of the musical material (tones, intervals, sound texture).

## **Laurent Estoppey**

[www.laurentestoppey.com](http://www.laurentestoppey.com)

After studying saxophone at the Conservatory of Lausanne, where he received in 1994, a concert license, the Swiss saxophonist established in Greensboro, NC, Laurent Estoppey, devoted himself mostly to contemporary music.

Numerous collaborations with composers have led him to create at least one hundred works. Now his musical activity is divided between written music and improvisation, and it occurs throughout Switzerland, many European countries, but also in Canada, USA, Argentina, Guatemala and South Africa.

He works with the following orchestras: Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Orchestra, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, Basel Symphony, UBS Verbier Festival Orchestra, Timisoara, Orchestra of the State of Lithuania, Lausanne Sinfonietta, NEC Chaux-de-Fonds, Contrechamps Geneva, Staatskapelle Weimar.

Estoppey has founded and developed several chamber music groups including: DILEMME (saxophone / piano with Myriam Migani), ST15 (saxophone / piano with Virginie Falquet) DEGRE21 (saxophone / guitar with Antonio Albanese), 1+1 (dual-concept Anne Gillot, recorders), compagnie CH.AU (set of nine musicians) and the 4TENORS (saxophone quartet with Vincent Daoud, Rico Gubler and Lars Mlekusch). Estoppey recently started a saxophone duet with Steven Stusek. Additionally he is regularly invited to play with the saxophone quartet Basel ARTE Quartet and is a member of Swiss baBel ensemble.

His improvisational collaborations involve meetings and concerts with musicians from all backgrounds. Many groups he has worked with are still alive today, including: Zkrabuj et chou et pâté (with drummer Luc Müller), GUEZ TRIO (Edmée Fleury, voice, François Rossi, drums), and 1+1 + Stephan Perrinjaquet. Estoppey has also worked alongside many independent musicians such as Jacques Demierre, Pierre Favre, Pierre Audétat, Malcolm Braff, Urs Leimgruber, Nick Didkovsky.

He is a guest musician of the Russian theatrical troupe Akhe with whom the show "Wet Wedding" was presented in Geneva, Nice, London, Stockholm, and Mexico.

His discography includes fifteen recordings.

His interest in all contemporary arts has led him to collaborate with many artists in interdisciplinary projects including, among others, projects with Georges Haldas (literature), Olivier Saudan (painting and video), Christian Marclay, Francis Baudevin, Stephan Perrinjaquet, Tatiana Rihs, Claudia Comte (visual arts) Heidi Bunting, Christine Cruchon, Brianna Taylor (dance), Gil Pidoux (literature and theater).

Also an educator, Estoppey used to teach saxophone from beginners to master students for around twenty years in many music schools in Switzerland.

He is regularly invited to lead improvisation workshops for musicians of all levels and all instruments, as well as saxophone and contemporary masterclasses.

Estoppey is a reference artist for Italian saxophone maker Rampone-Cazzani.

## **As a composer**

Laurent Estoppey is self taught composer. He uses all sorts of technics from traditional to graphic notation and also uses the electronics as a compositional tool. His works include concert pieces as well as sound installations and music for video art.

### **Selection of compositions**

Zap no zap (2014) two saxophones and electronics  
NFM (2013) saxophone ensemble  
La rencontre de l'immobile (2013) saxophone and electronics  
Anagrammes (2013) two saxophones and electronics  
La Ville Qui (with Anne Gillot, 2012) ensemble with electronics  
Voices (2012) saxophone and electronics  
Tombés du ciel (2009) for large ensemble  
Sympathy with the devil (2005) music for video  
La passion (2000) narrator, saxophone and tape  
6 polaroids (1999) saxophone solo  
For Marius Borgeaud (1998) music for video

### **As an improviser**

For almost twenty years, Laurent Estoppey tries to push the boundaries of the saxophone through the practice of improvisation Through solo or collective projects, his main focus is the sound(s) of the instrument and by extension, the sound(s) of music.

His personal projects include extensive work around French poet Christian Guez Ricord, as well as hip-hop / free project HipNoiz51, leading him to perform with musicians such as Ikue Mori, Anthony Coleman, Jacques Demierre, Pierre Favre, Malcolm Braff, Urs leimgruber, Nick Didkovski, D'incise, Pierre Audétat, Dragos Tara, Benoît Moreau, Anne Gillot, Pascal Desarzens, amongst many others.

### **Antoine Françoise**

[www.francoise-green.com](http://www.francoise-green.com)

After studying in Switzerland and United Kingdom with professors Paul Coker, Yonty Solomon, Andrew Ball, Ashley Wass (piano), Laurent Estoppey (saxophone) and Michael Oliva (composition), Antoine Françoise performs nowadays in Europe and further as a soloist, chamber musician, with ensembles and orchestras. At the term of his studies at the Royal College of Music in London, he was awarded the prestigious Tagore Gold Medal, for his outstanding talent and dedication to music. Antoine now is a professor of piano (contemporary specialism) at the RCM. Fascinated by the chamber music of the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as all new expressions of modern music, Antoine is founding member of the Mercury Quartet and the Francoise-Green piano duo, 2011 winners of Concours Nicati (Switzerland). He is also principal pianist of Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain (NEC, Switzerland) and London Contemporary Orchestra. He also played with the London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Contrechamps, Philharmonia Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He played with conductors such as Diego Masson, Pierre-Alain Monot, Nicholas Collon or Vladimir Jurowski. Antoine worked closely with composers such as Julian Anderson, Rebecca Saunders, Hans-Peter Kyburz (giving the uk premiere of his concerto) and Eric Gaudibert (who dedicated his last concerto GONG to him). In the classical field, he has performed widely in Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom, including concerti by Grieg, Hindemith or Poulenc and is hugely in demand as an orchestral pianist and chamber musician.

### **As a composer**

Mainly self taught composer, Antoine writes on a regular basis since 2004 for chamber groups or solo instruments. He later received precious advice from Swiss composer Eric Gaudibert and also studied electronic composition with Michael Oliva in London. His works have been played in Switzerland and the UK. His recent successes include a composition for ensemble and electronics for the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain (CH) that was broadcasted on the Swiss Radio Espace 2 and a duo for cello and double bass for Noëlle Reymond and Pascal Desarzens. He has also collaborated with English composer and violinist Jordan Hunt on a large scale work for theatre, dancers and musician as part of London Sinfonietta's Culture collective and has been devising open scores for semi-improvised concerts with the Mercury Quartet.

### **List of compositions:**

Deux anges passent... , musical theatre for 2 actors, clarinet, piano, double bass and percussion

Haikai, for speaking violinist

TGV, for saxophone and electronics

Amour, mode majeur, for speaker and 3 female voices

Histoire de bleu, for soprano, cello, trombone, harpe, percussion and piano

Tombeau suspendu, for percussion and electronics

Springtime, for tape

Daydream, for saxophone and electronics

Be seated along the way, for clarinet, flute, trombone, violin, cello and electronics

Nach dem Sturm, for cello and double bass

### **As an improviser**

Antoine is very active in the world of free improvisation. His long collaboration with percussionist Serge Vuille has led them to perform in Switzerland and the UK their piano4hands project and as part of the Mercury Quartet, he has performed in a wide range of venues including King's Place and Cafe Oto in London. Their improvised album Mercury Acoustic was released in 2011 with label Nonclassical and received wide acclaim in the UK and the USA. He has collaborated with musicians such as clarinettist Laurent Bruttin, singer Linda Hirst and saxophonist Laurent Estoppey to name a few. Antoine is also currently working on a new solo project for detuned/prepared piano and electronics.



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