

minimal music

a one day workshop for all instrumentalists

by

robbert van hulzen

(drummer & composer from amsterdam, netherlands)

date & time tba

registration fee rs 750

bodhi muzzik, raag durbar 2c

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register at

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minimal music techniques

In minimal music, development is usually slow and gradual. In this workshop, we will look at a number of techniques that composers like Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, LaMonte Young and Louis Andriessen came up with and used in many different ways.

We'll use Reich's *Clapping Music* as a fun and hands-on introduction to the material: one simple pattern is repeated a number of times, shifting against the pulse until it is back in its original position. Next, we'll discuss and try to define what "minimal" means. We're looking for practical definitions, things to enrich the music we create. We'll examine addition and subtraction of notes in a motif (e.g. Reich's *Drumming*), the use of cells to be repeated as many times as chosen before moving to the next one (Riley's *In C*) and developing layers by phaseshifting them against one another (in other words by superimposing two tempos with a very small difference, without a common fastest unit) (e.g. Reich's *Piano Phase*). After looking at what these composers did, we will attempt to come up with our own ways to create slow and gradual musical developments. We'll explore how we can use these techniques in a variety of styles, including jazz and rock environments. This workshop will of course be analytical to an extent, but the goal is to come up with practically applicable ideas and concepts we can use in creating our own music.



Robbert van Hulzen is a drummer & percussionist & composer from the Netherlands. His interest in minimal music originated in the time he was training to be a jazz drummer and heard the music of Steve Reich.

While his music has taken him many places (Indonesia, the US, Palestine, Canada, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and many others), Robbert has a special relationship with India, which he frequently visited for the past fifteen years, learning about South Indian music and playing with various groups. Recent collaborations include Maarten Visser's chamber jazz trio oto.3, as well as working with musicians from the fusion scene and the classical world, including bassist Misko M'ba, veena player Manjula Nagesh, and percussionist Anoor

Anantha Krishna Sharma.

At the moment, he is preparing *Elephant Songs*, a 20,000 kilometre musical motorcycle ride: he'll ride a vintage Enfield Bullet from Nepal to South India and on to Europe, performing and recording with musicians on the way, varying from South Indian temple musicians and Iranian rockers to Armenian jazzers and Slovakian DJs.

In Amsterdam, he works with mathpunk band Lola Montez, dancer Michael Jahoda, contemporary gamelan ensemble Gending, and many others, writes and produces music for film and theatre, and teaches drums as well as organising and leading musical projects in schools and community centres.

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