

# layercake improvising music using prepared ingredients

a workshop by **robbert van hulzen**

Music is a dynamic art - it exists in time, you hear it only when it's performed. Also, music is a prepared art: we practice, we learn licks, melodies, grooves, entire pieces.

In this workshop, we'll bring the two together in real time. We'll learn how to freely improvise a continuous set of music shaped by prepared ingredients.

We'll get better at listening to each other, and become aware of what gives music its character: dynamics, tempo, orchestration, density, activity etc. We'll also learn how to create new music with what we already know - please bring your own favorite bits, if you have any! Simple ideas, a song you learnt from your grandmother, a rhythm you can't get out of your head, a cue for transition or choice of instruments... Anything can be used, as long as it is clear, and you can teach it to others. We'll "conduct" each other: use different signals to indicate where to go, how to shape and develop the music.

## **day 1 - guided improvisation**

*improvise, take turns in conducting dynamics, orchestration, tempo, etc*

## **day 2 - free improvisation**

*create awareness of sound quality, texture, activity by improvising freely*

## **day 3 - conducted improvisation**

*learn high-level conduction, shaping more of the piece's development*

## **own cells - day 4**

*show & teach your music, accompany & conduct each other*

## **known cells - day 5**

*play each other's music, play with instrument roles, orchestrate*

## **everything goes with everything - day 6**

*bring it all together: improvise using our cells & awareness of orchestration etc*

## **day 7 - rehearsal & show**

*refining our new skills, creating a new piece of music*



**Robbert van Hulzen** played in Indonesia, USA, Iran, Canada, Turkey, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Wales, Spain, etc), and has a special relationship with India, which he's been visiting for the past twenty years, learning about classical music and playing with many musicians including Mishko M'ba, Amit Heri, Keith Peters, and long-term collaborator Maarten Visser, who is also featured in Robbert's collaborative rockjazz band **Layercake** (touring India in February).

Robbert is an active member of the Amsterdam (free) jazz scene, works with various bands and ensembles, writes music for dance and theatre, and teaches drums as well as organising and leading musical projects in schools and community centres.

For more information, visit [noordkantoor.nl](http://noordkantoor.nl)