The **Decoder Ensemble**, founded in Hamburg in 2011, considers itself a "band" for contemporary music and is one of the most innovative and unpredictable young ensembles on the new music scene. Their fresh and energetic sound, stemming from their distinct combination of electric and acoustic instruments and voice, sets them apart from conventional contemporary chamber music ensembles.

Surprising collaborations, experimental instrumental music, multimedia elements and conceptual performance art all play a large role in Decoder's programming. Decoder greatly stresses the contemporary format in the presentation of their concerts, incorporating carefully selected performance venues and an over-arching dramaturgy.

One of the main focuses of the ensemble is the collaboration with young composers and providing them with a platform to realize their works at the highest level. All of the members of Decoder specialize in the performance contemporary music, with 3 members doubling as the resident composers. This constellation, together with the extensive communication between the composers and interpreters in the development of the works, allows for the creation of unique and authentic performances.

The Ensemble performs internationally at festivals of contemporary music on a regular basis. In 2014 Decoder's self-titled debut CD on *Ahornfelder Records* was produced in cooperation with German Radio Cologne. Beginning in Fall 2017 Decoder will be presenting their own concert series at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

members

Frauke Aulbert	soprano, multivocalist, voice performer
Leopold Hurt	(e-)zither, conducting, composition
Andrej Koroliov	piano, keyboards, composition
Carola Schaal	clarinet, bass clarinet
Sonja Lena Schmid	violoncello
Alexander Schubert	electronics, sound projection, composition
Jonathan Shapiro	drums, percussion

contact

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PAST PROJECTS (selection)

19.04.2012	debut concert at „Markthalle" Hamburg
20.06.2012	club „Übel & Gefährlich", Hamburg
11.10.2012	festival "Hamburger Klangwerktage", Kampnagel Hamburg
24.11.2012	"E-Festival", Tunis (Tunisia)
02.12.2012	"Bach-Prize", Leopold Hurt Portrait, Club Terrace Hill
30.01.2013	festival "Klub Katarakt", Kampnagel Hamburg
24.03.2013	festival "What's Next", Brussels (Belgium)
05.05.2013	festival "blurred edges", Opera stabile, Staatsoper Hamburg
27.05.2013	festival "Klang", Copenhagen (Denmark)
22.06.2013	festival "aDevantgarde" Munich, Club Bob Beaman
28.08.2013	Berlin, Haus der Kulturen der Welt
28.09.2013	„Reeperbahn-Festival" Hamburg, Nocht-Speicher
09.10.2013	Kampnagel Hamburg, program „blind spot"
31.10.2013	festival "Klangwerkstatt Berlin", Club Berghain, program „blind spot"
15.11.2013	festival "Greatest Hits" Hamburg
Dec. 2013	CD-production in cooperation with Deutschlandfunk Cologne
18.01.2014	festival "Klub Katarakt", Kampnagel Hamburg
25.02.2014	Unerhörte Musik, „BKA" theatre Berlin
26.02.2014	Unerhörtes Brandenburg, theatre of Brandenburg an der Havel
29.03.2014	„Musikfest" of the KGNM, „Alte Feuerwache" Cologne
08.08.2014	International Summer Course for Contemporary Music Darmstadt
22.08.2014	Reverb Festival London (England)
28.08.2014	Frappant Hamburg, program „into the wild"
22.10.2014	HFBK Hamburg, program „Die gelehrigen Körper"
14.01.2015	10th Anniversary Concert of Multimedia at HfMT Hamburg
Apr. 2015	Premiere of Michael Maierhof's Opera „Exit G"
May 2015	Further performances of Michael Maierhof's Opera „Exit G"
25.9.2015	Premiere of Jagoda Szmytka's Opera „Lost" at Warsaw Autumn
12.11.2015	festival "Klangwerkstatt Berlin", Club Berghain, program „Lost and Found"
22.11.2015	festival "Greatest Hits", Hamburg, program „Lost and Found"
30.1.2016	Decoder & Caravaggio, Resonanzraum, Hamburg
11.2.2016	Decoder & Caravaggio, Carreau du Temple, Paris (France)
9.-10.4.2016	festival „Big Bang", Kampnagel Hamburg
30.4.2016	Re-opening of museum Kunsthalle Hamburg, program, „Play Me"
29.5.2016	"Bach-Prize", Andrej Koroliov Portrait, Opera Stabile, Staatsoper Hamburg
31.8.2016	festival „STREAM" Kampnagel, Hamburg

REPERTOIRE (excerpts)

Peter Ablinger (*1959) – Black Series (2012)
Version for (prepared) voice, bass clarinet, e-zither, percussion, electronics

Mark Applebaum (*1967) – Plundergraphic (2002)
For voice, clarinet, piano, percussion, live-electronics and tape

Michael Beil (*1951) – Verlier die Vier (2006)
For percussion and piano, with live-audio-electronics and live-video

Michael Beil (*1951) – Batterie (2003)
For drumset, video and tape

Raphaë has shown a steil rise in thisr in their short time of existenceronicdeoa and the USA. da
die Aussprache nicht so gut herauskoml Cendo (*1975) – Décombres (2006)
For bass clarinet and live-electronics

Marko Ciciliani (*1970) – Black Horizon (2011)
For 4 table-top electric guitars

Marko Ciciliani (*1970) – Crash (2007)
For singing percussionist and electronics

Stephen Daverson (*1985) – Pegasus
For Voice, clarinet, cello, zither, piano and percussion

Benjamin de la Fuente (*1969) – Manège (2001)
For percussion, piano and electronic

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – five minutes or less (2014)
Version for zither, violoncello and tape

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – Aggregat (2005)
For violoncello, bass zither and electronics

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – Fred Ott's Sneeze (2011)
for ensemble and tape

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – Reality Check (2013, German premiere)
for violin, e-zither and tape

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – Erratischer Block (2006)
for ensemble and tape

Leopold Hurt (*1979) – Dissociated Press (2015)
for ensemble and tape

Neele Hülcker (*1987) – ASMR (2015)
for ensemble

Marisol Jimenez (*1978) – CARO CIBUS (2013, world premiere)
For voice, clarinet, violoncello, e-zither, piano, percussion, tape and video

Gordon Kampe (*1976) – Chamäleontheorie III (2013, world premiere)
For soprano, clarinet, piano and turntable

Gordon Kampe (*1976) – Nischenmusik mit Klopfgeistern (2013, world premiere)
For voice, clarinet, e-zither, piano and percussion

Andrej Koroliov (*1982) – Sei du Gesang mein freundlich Asyl (2011, world premiere)
For voice, clarinet/bass clarinet, e-zither, piano and tape

Andrej Koroliov (*1982) – Illegal Sunshine Fry My Eyes (2015)
for cello, keyboard, drums, samples and video

Andrej Koroliov (*1982) – Like My Domination (2013)
for voice, clarinet, zither, piano, drums and electronics

Andrej Koroliov (*1982) – Resist Mix
For percussion and electronics

Johannes Kreidler (*1980) – Stil 1d (2013)
For bass clarinet, e-zither and tape

Johannes Kreidler (*1980) – Fremdarbeit
For ensemble, samples and moderator

Yannis Kyriakides (*1969) – Karaoke Etudes (2011)
For soloists, ensemble, video and soundtrack

Bernhard Lang (*1957) – DW15 „Songs/Preludes" (2003)
For mezzosoprano, zither and tape

Michael Maierhof (*1956) – Exit G (2015)
Music Theater for Actor, Countertenor, Soprano, Clarinet, Table-Top Guitar, Cello, Piano, and Percussion

Michael Maierhof (*1956) – Shopping 4 (2005/6)
For 3 Performers with Balloons

Alex Mincek (*1975): Nucleus (2007/2014)
For bass clarinet and drumset

Brigitta Muntendorf (*1982) – Digital Touch (2015)
For ensemble

Larry Polansky (*1951) – Ensembles of Note (1998)
Open instrumentation

Frederic Rzewski (*1938) – Coming Together (1971)
Open instrumentation

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – Your Fox's A Dirty Gold (2011, world premiere)
For one performer with voice, e-guitar, motion-sensors and live-electronics

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – Bureau Del Sol (2011)
für Schlagzeug, Timecode-Vinyl und Piano/Bassklarinette

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – HELLO (2014)
For ensemble and video

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – Laplace Tiger (2009)
For percussion, motion sensors, video and live-electronics

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – lucky dip (2013)
For e-zither, keyboard, MIDI-drumset and light

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – Point Ones (2012)
For augmented conductor and small ensemble

Alexander Schubert (*1979) – Sensate Focus (2014)
Version for zither, bass clarinet, percussion, cello, live electronics and animated light

Martin Schüttler (*1974) – taped&low-bit
For soprano, Samples and live-electronics

Matthew Shlomowitz (*1975) – Letter Piece No.5 "Northern Cities"
For two players

Matthew Shlomowitz (*1975) – Letter Piece No.8 "Sit Up Stand Down" (2012) For three
performers

Jagoda Szmytka (*1982) – Lost (2015)
Music Theater for Soprano, clarinet, zither, cello, piano, percussion and electronic performer

James Tenney (1943-2006): Having Never Written a Note For Percussion
Version for ensemble

John Zorn (*1953): Cobra (1992)
For open instrumentation

BIOGRAPHIES

Frauke Aulbert
Voice

As „Hamburg's queen of avantgarde" (Hamburger Abendblatt), Frauke Aulbert boasts a vocal range of four octaves and has specialized in the contemporary vocal performance having mastered overtone- and undertone-singing, multiphonics and other timbre-altering techniques, in addition to her formal training in lyrical singing.

As a vocal-sound-researcher she studies, describes and sings many different genres - including gamelan, jazz, dhrupad, beatboxing, – and applies those sounds to her interpretation of contemporary vocal music. Her dissertation examined *Overtone Singing in Contemporary Music*.

Improvisation and performances of pieces specifically written for her voice have led her to festivals all over Europe, Brasil, Georgia, Tunesia, the USA, Australia and Korea. She was awarded artists residencies in Rome and Paris (Goethe Institut and Cité International des Arts Paris, Akademie Schloss Solitude) and the first prize by the Stockhausen Foundation. Frauke is founding member of Decoder Ensemble.

Leopold Hurt
(E-)Zither, Conducting, Composition

Leopold Hurt (born 1979 in Regensburg/Germany) studied composition with Manfred Stahnke at the Academy of Music Hamburg and zither / historical performance practice at the Richard-Strauss-Conservatory Munich.

His oeuvre ranges from instrumental to vocal music with a particular focus on works featuring the zither and/or electronics. As an instrumentalist, he has appeared with such orchestras as the German Broadcasting Corporation, the Orchestra di Roma and the Hamburg Philharmonic. Supported by the Goethe Institute he has appeared internationallu on tours to China, Ireland and Lebanon.

Leopold Hurt has received several awards for his compositions, including the "Stuttgart Composition Prize" and the "Bach Prize Scholarship" of the City of Hamburg. As a cultural ambassador of Bavaria, he lived in 2003/04 at the "Cité Internationale des Arts" in Paris and during 2009/10 at the International House of Arts "Villa Concordia" Bamberg. In 2014 a portrait CD with his works was published by WERGO / Contemporary Music Series.

Andrej Koroliov
Piano, Keyboards, Composition

Andrej Koroliov was born in 1982 in Hamburg. He has received degrees in piano, composition and music theory at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg where he studied with Marian Migdal, Peter Michael Hamel and Manfred Stahnke.

His works, which span the gamut from acoustic to live electronic, solo to orchestral, have been awarded various prizes, including the Bach Promotion Prize of the city of Hamburg, Alfred Schnittke Composition Prize and Yamaha Young Composer's Award, and have been performed by Ensembles like Reconsil Vienna and the Freiburger Schlagzeugensemble. As a pianist, he has been active both as a soloist and as a chamber musician, performing with groups such as ensemble integrales and the Hamburger Symphoniker. Andrej Koroliov is also founding member of the Decoder Ensemble.

Carola Schaal
Clarinets

Carola Schaal (born 1982, Tübingen, Germany) studied clarinet in Darmstadt, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. She completed her Master's Degree with Professor Alexander Bachl at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg in 2009. In addition to her conservatory studies she has also taken part in Masterclasses with Ernesto Molinari, Jean-Marc Foltz, Ralph Manno, Martin Fröst and Shizuyo Oka as well as Jennifer Walshe's Performance Workshop.

From 2011-2013 she was the recipient of a grant from the Anni-Taube-Foundation Hamburg. She recently gave a masterclass at the XIV. Festival Internacional de Música Contemporánea'/Santiago de Chile.
In her work in the classical chamber music genre, she performs regularly together with the pianist Anne von Twardowski, the cellist Sonja Lena Schmid and the violinist Hibiki Oshimi. The concert ambience play a special role for their concerts enhance by their collaboration with the projection and lighting artist Kathrin Bethge.

Sonja Lena Schmid
Cello

Sonja Lena studied cello and chamber music in Hamburg, Amsterdam, Den Haag and Lübeck and is the recipient of awards and grants such as the ZEIT Stipendium from German foundation Musikleben, Dutch National Huygens Grant, 1st prize in the Charles Hennen Concours International Chamber Music Competition and a special prize in the international competition "Schubert and the Music of Modern Times".

Sonja is a member of Salut Salon and involved in numerous chamber music and theatrical music projects. She has performed in productions at the Thalia Theater (Hamburg), Deutsches Schauspielhaus and the Biennale in Munich. In 2014 Sonja initiated in conjunction with Anne von Twardowski the project Rauschen, which combines classical chamber music with live electronics. Since 2012 she has been a member of Decoder Ensemble. Sonja occasionally gives performance training workshops as guest lecturer at, among others, Hochschule der Populären Künste Berlin.

Alexander Schubert
Sound, Light, Electronics, Composition
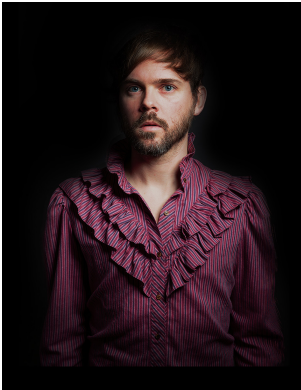
Alexander Schubert (1979) studied bioinformatics and composition. Schubert's interest explores cross-genre interfaces between acoustic and electronic music, combining different musical styles (like hardcore, free jazz, popular electronic music, techno) with contemporary classical concepts. Schubert has participated in his youth and early career in the above-mentioned genres both in groups and as a solo artist.

Furthermore performance pieces are a major focus in his work. The use of the body in electronic music and the transportation of additional content through gestures are key features in his pieces, which aim at empowering the performer and at achieving a maximum of energy. This is done both through the use of sensors and visual media.

Apart from working as a composer and solo musician Schubert is also a founding member of ensembles such as "Decoder". Since 2011 he teaches live-electronics at the conservatory in Lübeck. His works have been performed more than 400 times in the last few years by numerous ensembles in over 25 countries.

Jonathan Shapiro
Drums, Percussion

Jonathan Shapiro is an advocate for new music and the percussionist for the Decoder Ensemble, RADAR ensemble, and Ensemble Laboratorium. He appears frequently as a guest performer with such ensembles as Ensemble MusikFabrik, Ensemble Resonanz, Alarm Will Sound, Signal and Newband. Jonathan has also performed with such groups as the Percussionists of the New York Philharmonic, Argento Chamber Ensemble, International Ensemble Modern Akademie and in performances of Terry Riley's classic work In C with the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

Jonathan has appeared in performance at such festivals as the Bang on a Can Marathon, Darmstadt Ferienkurse, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Salzburg Bienalle, Klangspuren June in Buffalo, ECLAT Ultrschall, and the New York Philharmonic Charles Ives Festival (NY).

Jonathan holds degrees from the Interlochen Arts Academy, Manhattan School of Music, SUNY Stony Brook and the Musikhochschule Lübeck. Jonathan is an endorser for Black Swamp Percussion, Mike Balter Mallets, and Zildjian.