

Frédéric Blondy / Thomas Lehn

Frédéric Blondy • piano
Thomas Lehn • analogue synthesizer



Frédéric Blondy and Thomas Lehn gave their first performance during the festival *Fruits de Mhere* in France in summer 2001. Since then, they have been frequently working together as a duo. One major characteristic of their performance and music is a cross-effecting realtime sound processing by routing the piano audio signal into the analogue synthesiser's external input. The piano sounds are manipulated by the analogue synthesiser's modules (filters, reverberation, ringmodulation etc.). But simultaneously the incoming piano sounds are used as audio and control signals that interfere with and effect the synthesiser's sound synthesis.

"Dramatic music from two of Europe's top improvisers setting up an extraordinary interaction of electronic and acoustic sounds. Quite unlike any other disc in the 'another timbre' catalogue." (Simon Reynell, Another Timbre)

CD: **obdo**

www.anothertimbre.com/obdo.html

CD reviews (complete):

www.anothertimbre.com/obdo.html

Audio / listen:

www.fredericblondy.net/en/25obdo.htm

Fotos:

www.thomaslehn.de/downloads/down_photos_e.html#BL

CD-Reviews (excerpts):

"A unique mix of acoustic and electronic sounds made by two of Europe's brightest improvisers. The pianist Frédéric Blondy's play is transformed through the sound magician Thomas Lehn's analogue synthesizer, with extremely exciting results. The sound on these recordings is very measured and controlled, but always with a certain tension lurking under the surface. The music on this CD is not what you hear every day; it is very special and a demanding experience to listen through, but the result is excellent and exciting." - Henrik Kaldahl, Jazznet Denmark

"The duo of pianist Frédéric Blondy and synth manipulator Thomas Lehn holds a lot of potential. (...) The duo displays a large tendency for subtlety. It's in the quiet, contemplative moments, that the radical beauty of 'obdo' is found."
- Tom Sekowski, Gaz-eta

"It is a drama of tension, of the play of timbres and spaces opening up landscapes which are diffracted and then shattered by delicate excavations or sudden orchestral squalls. For the listener this is a passionate journey through lands which rise up and then shift from moment to moment. On stage too this duo must be quite something."
- Guillaume Tarche, Improjazz

"A pairing that goes wonderfully well together. A fine, thought-out work of improvisation."
- Frans de Waard, Vital Weekly

"Seen in its totality 'obdo' creates across its 50 minutes a work which has a symmetry and logic underlying its almost overwhelming unfolding."
- José Francisco Tapiz, Tomajazz

"Another fine one. (...) Wonderful, spatial clattering and dense, insane chattering in the second portion of the "suite". Excellent job."
- Brian Olewnick, Just Outside

"The music is spectacularly spectral, for the most part quiet, yet containing an amazing sense of drama and danger, of underlying nervousness and a feeling of uncertainty as to what is lying around the corner. (...) Thanks to the excellent recording - every sound, every gesture has an explosive force. (...) There are moments when the tension rages furiously and everything seems about to collapse, saturating the nerves and emotions of the listener who finds relief only in the final moments of the piece. A mad and desolate rush towards the void which swallows and destroys everything, leaving us completely dumbstruck. Spectacular."
- Alfio Castorina

"This CD will certainly delight all those like me, who love to be surprised by the richness of a soundworld which is both willed into being and allowed to run its course, and also moved by the musicianship of the playing."
- Le Quan Ninh, Revue et Corrigée

"Calligraphic electronics dart across piano thunder. Dark chords are turned in on themselves into roaring shards. Bright, sparely-voiced notes from the upper octaves are dropped against crackles and scratched synth. (...) The improvisation balances sections of spacious calm with heated squall with a thoughtful sense of overall form. This new label [Another Timbre] has been putting out a series of strong releases since its launch in late 2007. This is one of their strongest yet."
- Michael Rosenstein, Signal to Noise