

KONK PACK

Tim Hodgkinson | lap steel guitar, electronics, clarinet

Thomas Lehn | analogue synthesiser

Roger Turner | drumsets and percussion



KONK PACK brings together three major figures in contemporary music. For over ten years this group has amazed audiences at festivals and concerts all over the world with the sheer energy of its rapid-fire interplay, earning numerous critical accolades.

Since 1997, Konk Pack have toured regularly throughout Europe, completed three major tours of the US, and have been described by The Wire magazine's Lee Henderson as "one of the most exciting improv groups in the world." The group have released five compact discs, and performed at major music festivals from Vancouver to Belgrade. The musics they've made individually are reason enough to take note of this trio, but the music they make together leaves audiences amazed and inspired.

Artists Biographies

Tim Hodgkinson

Increasingly lauded as a contemporary composer, with works featured at international contemporary music festivals, and a set of pieces for ensemble out on the Mode label, Hodgkinson has also a powerful commitment to intense and highly energised performance practice. In over thirty years' work he has placed himself in a series of definitive projects, whether as cofounder of the seminal *Henry Cow* group, as saxophonist with influential avant metal band *God*, or as bass clarinet soloist in the spectral compositions of Iancu Dumitrescu. His lap steel guitar playing remains completely uncategorisable bringing subdued and not so subdued echoes of rock musics and other ethnicities.

www.timhodgkinson.co.uk | timhodgkinson.bandcamp.com

Thomas Lehn

Schooled both as a concert pianist playing contemporary repertoire and as a recording technician, Thomas Lehn deploys a huge musicality through his unique chosen outlet the analogue synthesiser. This instrument allows him extremely close and immediate contact with all aspects of sound modification - a vast gamut of living electronic sound produced with unmatched speed and fluency. Thomas Lehn simply represents a coming-of-age of electronic sound production in the domain of concert performance that sets a standard for the entire medium. He is therefore unsurprisingly an essential member of many of the most active and significant projects in this highly international and dynamic scene.

www.thomaslehn.com

Roger Turner

Over decades Roger Turner has brought the renowned volcanic power and finely honed precision of his drum work to ensembles that have often forged real connections with musicians both sides of the Atlantic. In addition he has worked extensively in the microscopic laboratory of the acoustic duo situation where he acquired a highly developed sense of detail and of dynamic control. One of that select group of world-class players who have collectively redefined the language of contemporary percussion. In Turner's hands minute inflections of tension can shape the group's musical direction and galvanise a new level of audience experience.

www.turners-site.com

Press

"Heading towards their 15th anniversary in 2012, the German-British trio Konk Pack continues to be the gold standard against which any band of electro-acoustic improvisers must be measured."

Ken Waxman | Jazzword

"I've caught Konk Pack live a half dozen times through the years and have been knocked out on each & every occasion. What makes this trio special is that their music is so focused and intense, that you often feel exhilarated by listening. You can't do anything else or have any distractions while listening since you will be swept away."

Bruce Gallanter | Onsen

"Konk Pack boasts a line-up that springs from diverse quarters, combining to make a gloriously intuitive barrage of sounds, both soft and savage. They've been together for 13 years, facilitating empathy without banishing unpredictability. To witness both of these gigs was to marvel at a band revealing completely different aspects of their ongoing vocabulary."

Martin Longley | All About Jazz

"The free improvisation of the trio Konk Pack is like a blast of science — a kind of controlled chaos in the hands of experts. Being musically proficient is not enough for Konk Pack; the players feed off the collective energy and have an uncanny ability to collectively shape their abstract constructions with a keen understanding of the power of varied dynamics."

Ernie Paik | The Pulse , Chattanooga

"I can't think of an improvising group more explosive than this European trio - percussionist Roger Turner, guitarist Tim Hodgkinson, and synth maestro Thomas Lehn bite down hard on whatever they play, confronting even delicate passages with taut intensity. ...I've seen so much free improv that some of it feels as predictable as 'Chopsticks', but these guys keep me pinned to the wall, happily anticipating the next shock."

Peter Margasak | Chicago Reader

"Grob label artists Konk Pack are utterly awesome. Featuring Thomas Lehn on the craziest old EMS synth A, Tim Hodgkinson on flat guitar and Roger Turner on percussion, the show is awkwardly brilliant and defiant. With startling combinations of punkish nuisance, ingenious change-ups, and rolling, stumbling, tripping and flipping sound inventions, Konk Pack are one of the most exciting Improv groups in the world."

Lee Henderson | The Wire

"Heralded by a release on the Grob label - Big Deep, recorded in Rome, Tilburg and Brussels - Konk Pack's appearance at a central London venue attracted a sell-out crowd. The accelerated, interactive electronica of Roger Turner (percussion), Tim Hodgkinson (deconstructed tabletop guitar) and Thomas Lehn (analogue synth) arises from a scintillating heap of sonic detritus the way an artificial intelligence manifests itself in a Manga movie: a writhing mass of automobiles, arcade consoles, street furniture and mobile phones. Hodgkinson attacks his amplified strings with plectrum and bow, his specs glinting as he waits for the right awkward moment to kloodge a sonic shard on the side of one of Turner's amazingly vocalised motifs (at times you swear you hear collaborator Phil Minton's mucal snorts). Lehn restricts his pianism on analogue synth to pinched blurts, but still manages to resemble a switched-on Liszt. Although we itched to interrupt with applause, Konk Pack played an unbroken 45 minute set: fun debris, rollicking freakouts ... and one magical section of scrape and pling where the music seemed to play itself."

Ben Watson | The Wire

"Collectively improvised music comes in many forms, with as many degrees of success. Only some genuinely presses the envelope, pushing into a terrain where the unknown can happen and where even the best players encounter risk. On that transcendent scale, the trio Konk Pack - Tim Hodgkinson on table-top guitar and clarinet, Thomas Lehn on synthesizer, and the wondrous Roger Turner on percussion - fared best among the groups at this festival [Festival International Musique Actuelle Victoriaville, May 2000], creating music in which a barrage of discreet particles bounced around, colliding in a universe in which chance and interactivity blurred into one another. Playing at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon in the festival's smallest venue, Konk Pack established a benchmark by which other improvisers' performances would inevitably be judged."

Bill Smith | Coda Magazine

"As for pure total improvisation, the verdict on german-english trio Konk Pack was unanimous. Even listeners unreceptive to improvised noise (bending frequencies and sound-textures via an analog synth, manipulation of a guitar on a table, free percussion, etc) were won over by these subtle sonorities superbly segued, magnificent interplay."

Alain Brunet | La Presse, Montreal

CD Releases

Four CDs had been released on German label GROB :

Big Deep (1999)

[GROB 102]

www.churchofgrob.com/Churchofgrob/catalog/grob102/grob102.html

[track list & details](#)

Warp Out (2001)

[GROB 323]

www.churchofgrob.com/Churchofgrob/catalog/grob323/grob323.html

[track list & details](#)

off leash (2004)

[GROB 654]

www.churchofgrob.com/Churchofgrob/CATALOG/Grob654/index.html

[track list & details](#)

the black hills (2010)

[GROB 962]

www.churchofgrob.com/Churchofgrob/CATALOG/Grob962/index.html

[track list & details](#)

The latest release has been published on US-american, Baltimore-based label Knock'em Dead Records :

Doing The Splash (2013)

[kdr003]

www.knockemdeadrecords.com/shop-doing-the-splash-by-konk-pack.php

[track list & details](#)

Festival Appearances

Victoriaville/CA, **FIMAV** 2000
Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy/FR, **Musique Action** 2000, 2007
Mhere/FR, **Fruits de Mhere** 2000
Wels/AT, **Music Unlimited** 2000
Bourges/FR, **Synthese** Festival 2001
Nickelsdorf/AT, **Konfrontationen** 2001
Prague/CZ, **Alternativa** Festival 2001
Bratislava/SK, **Next** Festival 2001
Utrecht/Rotterdam/NL, **Rumor** Festival 2001
Belgrade/RS, **ring ring** festival 2002
Mulhouse/FR, **Jazz a Mulhouse** 2002
Mhere/FR, **Fruits de Mhere** 2003
Vancouver/CA, **Dangerous Currents** Festival 2003
Nottingham/UK, **Now** 2006
Barcelona/ES, **LEM** 2006
Frankfurt/DE, **ROT** Festival 2009
Caen/FR, **Interstice** Festival 2010
Lille/FR, **Muzzix** 2011
Le Havre/FR, **piednu** Festival 2011, 2015
Dachau/DE, **Jazzherbst** 2011
Tours/FR, **Total Meeting** 2011
St. Etienne/FR, **Musiques Innovatrices** 2014
Paris/FR, **CRAK** Festival 2014
Bologna/IT, **Angelica** 2016
Oslo/NO, **Blow Out** 2016
Newhaven/UK, **Fort Process** 2016
Moscow/RU, **Jazz in autumn - Impro** 2016
Saint-Silvain-sous-Toulx/FR, **Le Bruit de la Musiques** 2017
Guelph/CA, **Guelph Jazz Festival**, 2018

Tours

1998: Italy
1999: Belgium, The Netherlands
2000: UK, Germany, Canada, France
2001: UK, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, USA, Austria, Netherlands, Czech Republic
2002: UK, Germany, Austria
2003: UK, Italy, Canada, France
2004: UK, France, Germany, Austria
2005 & 2006 : UK
2008: 10 Years Anniversary Tour: Netherland, Germany Italy
2009: Sweden, Germany
2010: France, USA
2011: France
2012: Scotland & England
2013: USA
2014: France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy
2015: France
2018: Canada, USA

Links

audio

excerpts of:

KONK PACK – *the black hills* (CD)

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| 1. <u>The Welcome</u> | 1:41 | https://tinyurl.com/y97so729 |
| 3. <u>The Grave</u> | 1:40 | https://tinyurl.com/yb2ksxh8 |
| 4. <u>The Breakfast</u> | 3:27 | https://tinyurl.com/ydac9rxf |
| 5. <u>Roof Party</u> | 1:13 | https://tinyurl.com/y7rrdwrh |
| 6. <u>The Trees</u> | 3:17 | https://tinyurl.com/y8ql5xu6 |
| 7. <u>Gin Run</u> | 6:17 | https://tinyurl.com/y984ofdd |

excerpt of:

KONK PACK – *off leash* (CD)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|
| 1. <u>off leash</u> | 5:43 | https://tinyurl.com/y6ur82uf |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|

[all audio titles](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/yavj7d7f>

video

KONK PACK live at Area Sismica
[Forli, Italy on Sun. November 16, 2014](#)

<https://youtu.be/aMegtjC4IxQ>

KONK PACK @ 5th Dimension, Baltimore

<https://youtu.be/LJrqa5fo6QM>

KONK PACK @ Hannover during a soundcheck

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M0lXdoaw-0

photos

<https://tinyurl.com/y7er3erq>

tech rider

<https://tinyurl.com/ybr53eh9>

