

Sascha Ley: feeling at home in free improvised music

Sascha Ley is one of Luxembourg's best-known artists. ... Free improvisation in music, sound worlds and "sound painting" are genres that Sascha Ley discovered for herself a little later.

On her musical way Sascha Ley developed an awareness for the world of sounds. It developed when she got into contact with free improvised music. Real sound worlds and "sound painting" would have opened a whole new world for the artist, in which she could immerse herself with all her senses.

Music that was and is beyond our musical traditions with harmonies, in which one works "with devices, with sounds, everyday objects," impressed Sascha Ley very much, because one has so much "more stimuli for the brain."

"It's something we're all probably connected to subconsciously from a young age anyway. We can close our eyes and mouth, but we can never close our ears. At most, you can stop something, but purely in terms of physicality, you can't protect yourself from hearing. "

Emotional connection with the human voice

Even as a child, Sascha Ley found it interesting that a sound or a voice could make a person sit up and take notice or even frighten them. Monotonous sounds would have driven her "completely crazy" at an early age:

"People's voices - how they speak, the rhythm, it can either be very pleasant, trusting, so you can fall in love with sounds or voices, or it can be scary. A monotonous sound can scare me. It's interesting what it does to our nervous system and how it affects us."

Sascha Ley's musical work moves between classical and experimental interpretation, between jazz, free improvisation, folklore, and contemporary music.

In India, she began to focus more on her musical path, and at that time decided to go further and explore composing on her own:

"I got an insight into Hindustani vocal music, and also into the way it is taught. I had a one-on-one class in the classical sense - so I was the only student of my teacher, Dhanashree Pandit-Rai. She adapted her lessons to people like me, singers by profession, to train, explain and expand the musical vocabulary. And to use it in the context of the inventiveness of jazz, which traditional teaching would tend to forbid."

Everything depends on a good story

Since the beginning of her career, Sascha Ley has appeared in numerous German, French and English stage, film, and television productions - a wide-ranging repertoire from classical to modern, drama to comedy. As a performer, she has been offered both tragic and comic plays, developing a particular talent for comedy. Sascha Ley is interested in any story that is good:

"If it's thematically coherent, well-written and also the directorial concept is interesting, I think it's nice to play both big emotions and really something funny and have fun with it."