

**DIRK WACHTELAER
MICHAEL WEILACHER:
LIVE IN BRUSSELS
(FMRCD230-0307)**

Dirk Wachtelaer
(electronic drums, octopad with sampler, processed drum sounds),

Michael Weilacher
(acoustic percussion)



Dirk Wachtelaer has worked with fellow percussionist Michael Weilacher many times, particularly within the group Vanishing Pictures. This live duo recording in Brussels, captures the pair exploring their sound parameters of both electronic and acoustic drum set ups, exchanging sounds to create a unique and whole percussive landscape.

DIRK WACHTELAER

When I was putting my third solo cd together (Reconstruction, out on FMR) I wanted to include some live duo recordings. Although I had done concerts in duo with Stevie Wishart, Luc Mishalle, Toshinori Kondo and Michael Weilacher, none of these concerts were recorded. A couple of months after the release of the cd I coincidentally meet fellow drummer Mike Goyvaerts who told me he had a recording of a concert I had done with Michael Weilacher. When I heard that recording I was pleasantly surprised. It was obviously a lo-fi recording but it was the most organic recording I had heard of my electronic setup. I used a Octopad connected to an Akai 3200 XL sampler (all samples based on my acoustic drums only). The concert was recorded with 2 microphones, my sound came from 2 speakers hanging rather high, we didn't use monitors. The speakers weren't exactly of very high quality and couldn't take any of the subbass. But this lo-fi recording gives it an organic feeling and accentuates the live vibes. It's not easy to really improvise with samples that are pre-recorded but on this recording it's hard to tell where the acoustic sounds end and the electronic ones begin (and vice versa). Michael's setup is very close to mine soundwise and we were really concentrating on each other. We improvised continuously for one hour and the creative energy was there from the beginning till the end.

MICHAEL WEILACHER

The choice of instruments I used for the ULB concert stemmed on one hand from my previous experiences of playing with Dirk and his electronic kit. We both had previously developed a variety of sound samples that we felt complimented each other as well as expanded on some of the qualities inherent in our respective vocabularies. On a practical side I had to compensate for not only the lack of space in the car to transport everything but also to be sure that I could somehow conceive of a percussion set up that was feasible to perform with live. Likewise, I needed something that I could perform with on a level that matched Dirk's virtuosity and immense sound library. I choose instruments like cymbals, skin (drums), and a tam tam that gave me not only something to >>>>

Recorded live at the U.L.B. Brussels on 15th November 1999

Produced for FMR by Trevor Taylor
CD layout by Ewan Rigg



>>>> strike but also something I could bow or moreover use as a resonating surface for other objects that I placed on them like a triangle, crotales or an iron chain. In this respect the more or less conventional instruments were finally capable of producing sounds that contained parameters that mixed well with the electronic sounds. The crotales (antique cymbals with specific pitches) are a great example of how I could produce different sounds from just one small metal disk by striking them with a stick producing a clear and defined high pitched tone; bowing them which produced a continuous high pitched piercing sine wave tone; or finally using them as 'beaters' on the snare skin and manipulating them in different ways.

Some of the other objects I choose like small granite stones or unconventional beaters (super ball, scrapers) gave me the flexibility to produce non-percussive like sounds which I enjoy doing very much. Here's a list of some of the instruments I used for the ULB session: two granite stones, wood block, three tin cans, 2 Rogers tom toms, cymbals, Tam tam chinese (wuhan brand), hi hat, railroad metal pieces, snare drum, roto toms, 2 wooden planks about 75 cm long, small bass drum triangle on the snare (solo), unknown metal bell like thing, crotales, super ball on tom toms vibraslap?? and others which I've since then forgot.



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