



Concert November 3, 2018

It was a great pleasure to perform for the excited and wonderful audience. A big surprise with all the young kids in the audience. It felt that the church really have their audience and like to get experience with new music and different ways of performing.

When I choose my program I always like to involve some backgrounds to get the music more colors, and also fun to interact. This concert I had the pleasure to work together with Ben Kunstleben who is an outstanding photographer and video artist. I came up with the idea to do an video in the evening on our way back from the school to the Hotel. So the first video was made in the car basically the cars we met on the other side, so from the lights he played with the camera and made the most interesting video. To that video and backtrack I played the oldest song Seikilos Skolion.

As number two I was improvising over a song from Georg Gershwin "Lady be Good" It is always fun to improvise over his songs. After Gershwin I played one of my compositions Ballad i Norr which means the ballad from up north. It is for solo vibes.

Then to my next back track which I call E-Hymn, inspired from the Gregorian Chant where you can sing or play the melody in your individual tempo, and repeat that with different articulation and improvisation. The rhythmical groovy background take the music forward and even here Ben was creative and did a video the same morning. We went out in the morning rush hour and filmed people at the Cross walk. It really gave me a lot of creative moments to my E-hymn.

After Hymn I played to of my own songs and I performed on the Marimba. the first was

the song Summer, inspired from the Island Gotland who is one of the big Island in the Baltic Sea. And that one followed by Cancion Para D, written to a good friend.

Then I played together to an video I did in a park in Stockholm some years ago. It is me and two good friends where we played on drums made of Glass. After the Glass I turned into an Jazz standard “ Take the A train. And again improvisation give me freedom so I started with two egg shakers and with the excited audience I invited them to participate in some coordination moments. And then I took of on the Marimba.

To the end I played another of my Hymns and again with backtrack and a video made in the afternoon. The name could even be bounce! In the end I use ping pong balls on the instruments which is a fantastic sound. And I let them drop in the end so the floor give the ending.

So my way of performing is a lot improvisation and when I use compositions from my pen or others, I use it as an map where you can take different directions.

My warmest thanks for having me perform in the wonderful church, to the people who work in the church. And to Boris Estrin who created the festival and brought me in.

I really looking forward to next time

All the best

Anders Åstrand