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- rendez-vous  
**21.22**
- ManiFeste  
**2022**

**Sun 21 November 2021,**  
**5 p.m.**  
**Centre Pompidou**  
Grande salle

Creation

**Performance**

## **Avec les chants du vivant**

**An evening in the series “Vinciane Despret, avec qui venez-vous ?” at the Centre Pompidou**

The sounds and songs of the living have inspired the history of music since its very beginning. Today, many composers and sound artists are exploring a broad range of expressive modes by bringing these "other" beings into their music. It is not simply a matter of bringing these expressive modes into the music, but of striving to make heard, through sound processing, arrangements, and transformations, that which is not normally perceptible to our human ears, or that which is heard differently. It is a question of reinventing the different ways of making continuum between these sounds and the work of art. How do these sounds work? What operations make these sounds perceptible to us, allow us to feel their tessitura, their variations, even simply their existence?

In a panel discussion led by the philosopher Vinciane Despret and the musicologist Nicolas Donin, the composers Robin Meier and Bernard Fort will share with us their concrete cuisine and will let us hear, for one, the stridulations of ants or the experience of musicians who sing with and like mosquitoes, for the other, that of making us feel the exaltation of a skylark or the soliloquy in the chattering of a titmouse.

The latter part of the evening features the musical performance *Truce* by Robin Meier. To find a mate of the right species, male and female mosquitoes rely on their ability to "sing" in tune. Mosquitoes adjust the sound of the buzzing they produce to synchronize the wingbeats between males and females, allowing for harmonized buzzing and copulation in mid-air. *Truce* uses the natural synchronization behavior of mosquitoes to coax them into creating music.

In this "concertante" adaptation of the installation *Truce* (Robin Meier & Ali Momeni, 2009), a Dhrupad singer, a traditional classical song from northern India, sings a slow glissando supported by low, ethereal vibrations of ondes Martenot. Stimulated by the singer's voice and the frequencies of the waves, three mosquitoes independently tune their buzzing to these sounds. Activated by the buzzing, a computer generates three distinct electronic voices, reproducing the tone of each mosquito. These three electronic voices enter punctually in harmony with each other, depending on the insects' ability to remain in synchronization with the sound stimulus.

Together, insects, humans and machines compose a song of an inter-species alliance.

*Truce*

**Robin Meier** composition

**Nirmalya Dey** song

**Christine Ott** instruments (Ondes Martenot)

**Lionel Feugère** (University of Greenwich) Mosquito preparation and scientific advisor

With the support of Pro Helvetia, Fondation suisse pour la culture. Thanks to Laurent Dumas from Groupe Emerige, Mylène Weill, Gabriella Gibson, Lionel Feugère, and Ali Momeni

Organization

**Jean-Max Colard** and **Joséphine Huppert**, Centre Pompidou

**Nicolas Donin**, IRCAM-STMS

This evening is a part of the invitation extended to Vinciane Despret, guest scholar at the Centre Pompidou in 2021-2022. Discover the full program.



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Truce



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Truce



• La philosophe Vinciane Despret © "Les Possédés et leurs mondes", Emmanuel Luce 2019 (détail)



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Le compositeur Robin Meier





Le compositeur Bernard Fort © Sylvain Daulin

**ircam**  
Centre  
Pompidou



**Ircam**

1, place Igor-Stravinsky  
75004 Paris  
T. +33 1 44 78 48 43

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