



# [Dis/re]-connecting

for percussion trio, string quartet, tape and video projection

by

Charles Baumstark

## Intention

Recent years have witnessed a radical change in our society's view on communication technologies and in the appreciation individuals have of them. This evolution from excitement to rejection has gradually happened alongside the awareness of our impact on the environment and nature, resulting in an always growing tendency to physically isolate ourselves from each other, and from society.

If we urgently need to disconnect from the superfluous, we also need to be aware of our place in our contemporary world, and reconnect with it in a balanced way. The intention of this work is not to answer the question of whether we should stop using technology, or cut ourselves from a connected (or even hyper connected) society, but rather to engage each and everyone of us into a reflection about our own, responsible, use of them. However, if that answer is individual and should be the result of an inner questioning, it is only through communicating with each other that it can be found.

Far from a simple 'critic' of our consumption of communication technologies, this work is rather an invitation to find and appreciate our own balance in our exposure to, and use of those technologies, as well as to acknowledge the beauty they sometimes generate.

*[Dis/re]-connecting* calls us to disconnect, reflect, and reconnect with our inner selves and with our contemporary technological environment in a balanced way.

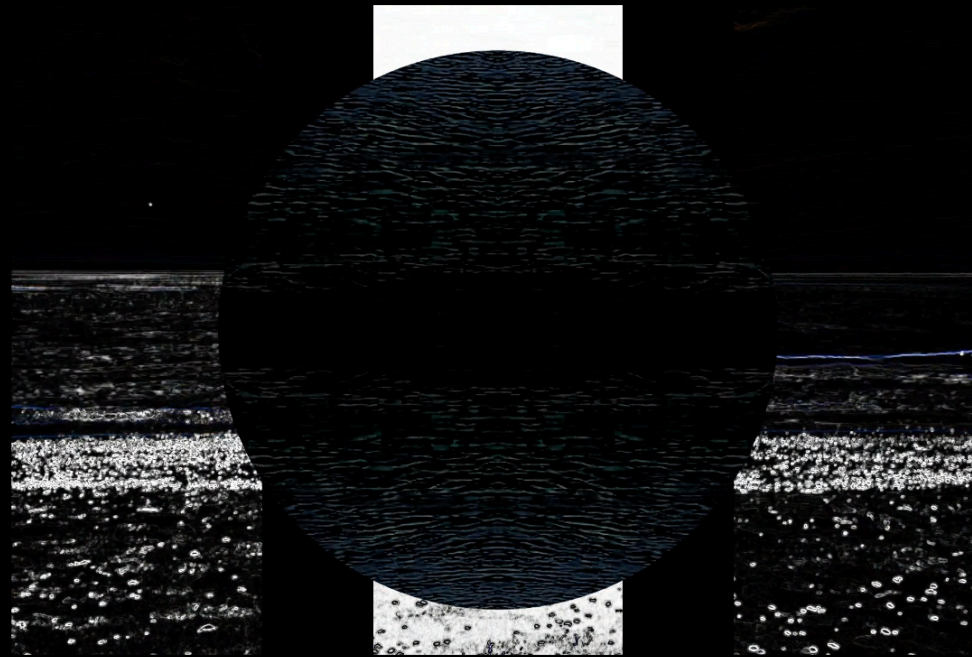


## Programme

*[Dis/re]-connecting* tells the story of a character (The Woman) who enters an isolation period after being overwhelmed by her communication device. Peaceful at first, this isolation time turns sour when she realizes that communication is key in our world.

The video projected on screen accompanies the performance as a *tableau animé* that always portrays the character's thoughts, from peaceful contemplations to violent cognitive dissonances. It depicts the constant duality between her will of isolation and communication. Those *tableaux* gradually unfold and transform in an abstract composition that leaves on purpose to the audience the opportunity to find the key for the entire work's interpretation.





*[Dis/re]-connecting*

1. Introduction
2. [Dis]-connecting
3. /.iso[lation]
4. /.iso[chronism]
5. Rotating logs - /.iso[cracy]
6. /.OS[mosis]
7. [re]-connecting

Duration: ca.30min



# XTRO

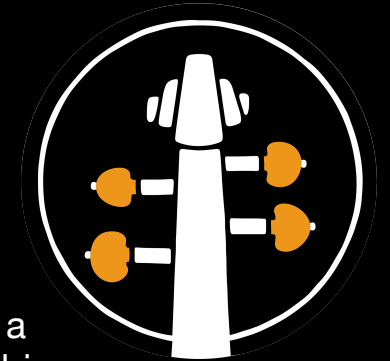
**XTRO** is a group that creates and performs mainly new music and contemporary works, combining theatrical elements and dance. Winners of Grote Kamermuziekprijs 2021 (audience and jury prizes) and influenced by minimal, electronic and alternative music, the ensemble involves every kind of audience, stimulating imagination in an ethereal reality made of musical, visual, dramaturgical art, and concepts. From 2019, Xtro's work as performers, producers and composers has led to collaborations with an impressive range of artists including Slagwerk Den Haag and the new generation composers - Nichola Morrish, Germán Medina Calle, Celia Swart and Patrick Ellis.

The group, consisting by Antonio Bove, Gabriele Segantini and Miguel Varela, saw its important appearance during the festival Gaudeamus Muziekweek, Festival Dag in de Branding, Grote Kamer Muziek, Mittelfest and November Music. Born in the Netherlands, Xtro's aim is to communicate, create and experience through sound and explore which moments of explosion, pulse and tension bring the audience to discover new space, time and emotions.



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The **Pelargos Quartet** was founded in 2016 and consists of violinists Stephanie van Duijn, Kaja Majoor, violist Anna Jurriaanse and cellist Diederik Smulders. All members are recently graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague and Conservatorium van Amsterdam. The Pelargos Quartet has a natural love for the standard string quartet repertoire, but also has a great interest for modern and living composers. They enjoy playing quartet a lot and it plays a big role in their lives.



Pelargos regularly performs in The Hague and across The Netherlands. They gave concerts in venues such as Nieuwe Kerk in The Hague, Tivoli Vredenburg in Utrecht and the Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam. During their studies at the Royal Conservatoire, the quartet has been coached by violist Ásdís Valdimarsdóttir and violinists Janet Krause and Peter Brunt. Besides, Pelargos has received masterclasses from all the members of Quatuor Danel and members of Cuarteto Casals. Through NSKA they've also received several masterclasses and they participated in Kamermuziekdagen Zeist (summer 2019), where they had many lessons and concerts.

In June 2019, Pelargos performed the Helicopter String Quartet by Karlheinz Stockhausen at the Holland Festival in Amsterdam, as part of the opera cycle "aus Licht". In four separate helicopters, the quartet flew over Amsterdam while playing. The audience followed the performance live from the Westergasfabriek. This was really a big highlight, it was extremely exciting for us to be part of something so huge and inspiring.

**Charles Baumstark** is a French composer and conductor based in the Hague, The Netherlands.

If his music finds its roots in a poetry of metaphysics and nature, it is rather in the pure forms of geometrics and in a more organic and living world that he finds the structures and timbres for his pieces. Aiming at a wide latitude of interpretation, his music puts together aleatoric and improvised elements that gravitate around unmovable musical kernels, between a precise writing and a total interpretative freedom.

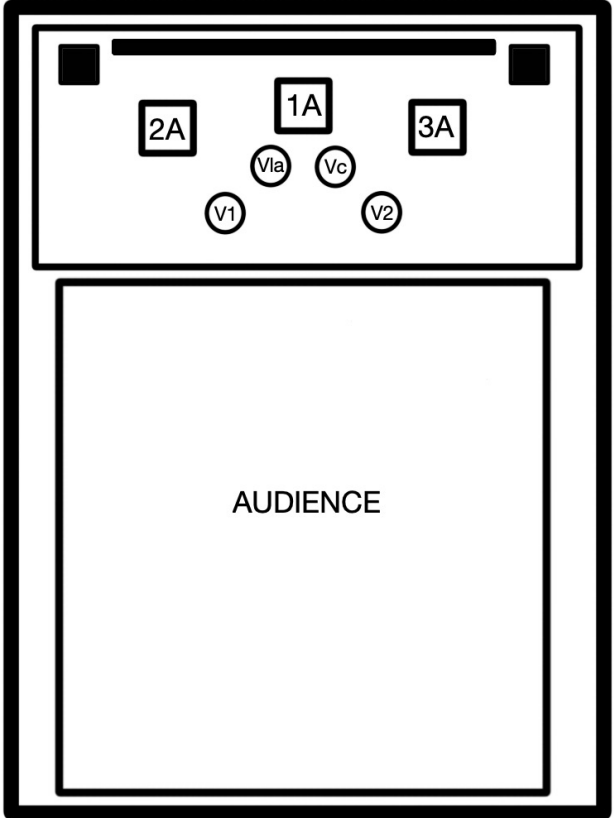
A fervent promoter of new music, Charles has collaborated both as conductor and/or composer with contemporary music ensembles such as the RSNO Alchemy, the RedNote Ensemble, the Glasgow New Music Expedition, and the Edinburgh Contemporary Music Ensemble. More recent projects have led him to also write for the Residentie Orkest Den Haag, the New European Ensemble, and the Faelix Baroque Ensemble.

Charles is a master graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, studied composition and conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK) and at the Rostov-on-Don State Conservatory (Russia). He is also a graduate from the Université Paris-Sud XI where he studied general mathematics.





# Technical Rider & Stage Plan

Stage plan	Instrumentation	Technical rider
	<p><b>Percussion trio</b>            Player 1            -Aluminum pipes            -5 Metal plates            -1 Bean shaker            -1 Floor tom</p> <p>Player 2            -Desk bells            -Aluminum pipes            -Ankle shaker            -3 Rototoms (muffled with cloth)            -1 Floor tom (muffled with cloth)</p> <p>Player 2            -Desk bells            -Aluminum pipes            -Ankle bells            -3 Rototoms (muffled with cloth)            -1 Floor tom (muffled with cloth)</p> <p><b>String quartet</b>            -Violin 1            -Violin 2            -Viola            -Cello</p> <p><b>Fixed media</b>            -1 Tape file            -1 Video file</p>	<p><b>Tape &amp; video projection</b>            -1 Large screen (or plain white wall)            -1 Video Projector            -1 Laptop            -1 Set of stereo speakers (L/R)</p> <p><b>String Quartet</b>            -4 Chairs            -4 Stands            -4 Contact mics</p> <p><b>Percussion trio</b>            -3 Stands            -1 Table for Player 1            -2 Small tables            -3 Overheads mics</p> <p>Amplification system &amp; click track            -7 Earphones            -7 3.5mm Jack extensions            -7 Signal amplifiers</p>

## Contacts & More

**Charles Baumstark**

<https://charlesbaumstark.com>

**XTRO**

<https://www.xtroofficial.com>

**Pelargos Quartet**

<https://www.pelargosquartet.com>