



**MARKUS PESONEN
PORTFOLIO**



Acoustic Body (2018 - 2019)

Ecologies of Sound, and the Emerging Cultures of Listening

Acoustic Body takes an artistic and research-based approach on developing and exploring the ways of experiencing the acoustic environment and the somatically aware cultures of listening. In the context of sound art, the project shifts the spotlight from the artist-as-a-creator and the artwork-as-an-object to the emerging cultural practices that encourage active and embodied listening.

The project is inherently trans- and anti-disciplinary. It collects together diverse elements from the practices and perspectives of acoustic ecology, neuromusicology, somatics and cultural studies. A particular focus is given to the technological paradigm shift in the audio field brought about by the current breakthrough of immersive listening technology.

The core group of the project consists of composer **Markus Pesonen** and somatician **Catarina Brazão**, and it's supported by cultural studies researchers **Juhana Venäläinen** and **Noora Vikman**.

Music, Sound and Wellbeing Symposium (1st edition in August 2019, University of Eastern Finland) was a leading event about sound and acoustics in the areas of health, tech and education and provided an important opportunity for everyone interested in these areas to share their latest research results and exchange ideas on theories, technologies and applications in these fields.



Field recording in France

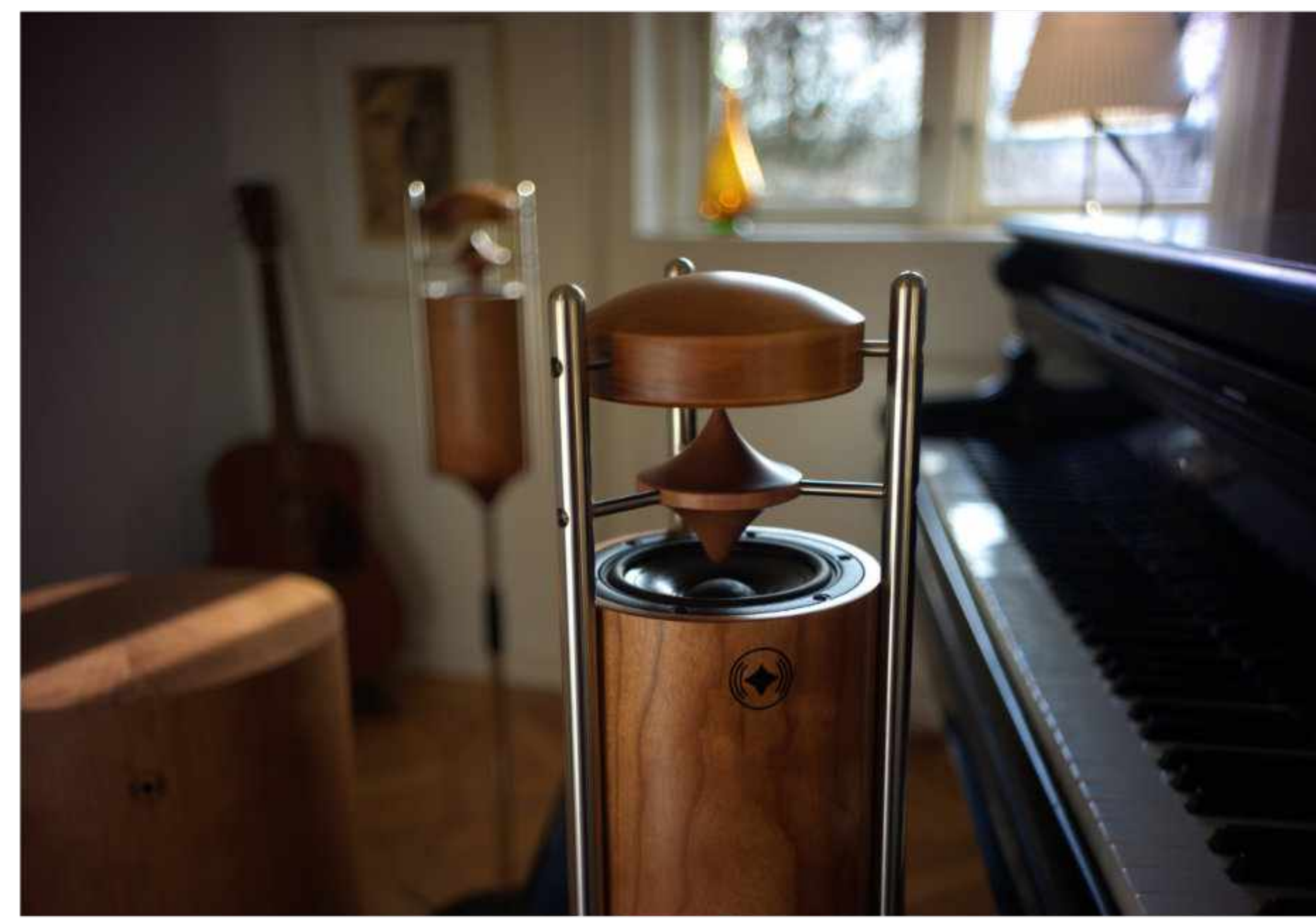


Recording gongs in Germany ↑

Omnispheric speaker technology ↓

Catarina & Markus presenting the Acoustic Body research

The Symposium was international and multidisciplinary



Somatic Sound Journeys are three-dimensional sonic landscapes that involve a variety of nature sounds and electroacoustic music. Each Sound Journey is unique as every composition is created in the moment. The invitation is to observe how different sounds impact us and develop somatic awareness by listening through the body. Somatic Sound Journeys have been experienced by over 1500 people in Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Belgium.

The experience is accompanied by a blindfold mask that enables total darkness even with open eyes and an omnispheric speaker system that creates an immersive sonic augmented reality experience. The events ends with a discussion about somatic awareness, acoustic ecology, listening culture, sound technology, therapeutics and education.



Somatic Sound Journey in Lützelflüh, Switzerland

"First of all, let me tell you that we all felt very comfortable – you have the capacity to share a calm atmosphere and open spaces... For me personally, the workshop was an experience of opening awareness. It seems to me that the Markus' compositions and the sound equipment that is so incredibly loyal to the real sound, have a lot of impact on the listener." – Elena

"I would describe my experience as meditative as I went pretty deep during the journey. The sound was really impressive – an amazing natural soundscape." – Jyrki

"The journey was very strong and deep for me. The blindfold enhanced the experience of focussing on hearing. It was an important element in that respect. I went deep into myself and it allowed me to hear my internal state – to see how I really was. I also felt a deep love and appreciation for myself, and that felt touching. After the sound journey, it took me some time to return to the external reality. I asked Catarina to help me ground again." – Veera

"I haven't felt so effortless relaxed and connected for years already after a few minutes of the sound journey, and it still persists days later. The team felt very harmonious, welcoming and competent, the space was fascinating and the sound impressive – I had a fantastic experience. I'm looking forward to more." – Ursula



Field recording in Madeira, Portugal



Field recording in Doñana National Park, Spain



Sound walk in Koli, Finland



Somatic Sound Journey in Olo centre, Finland

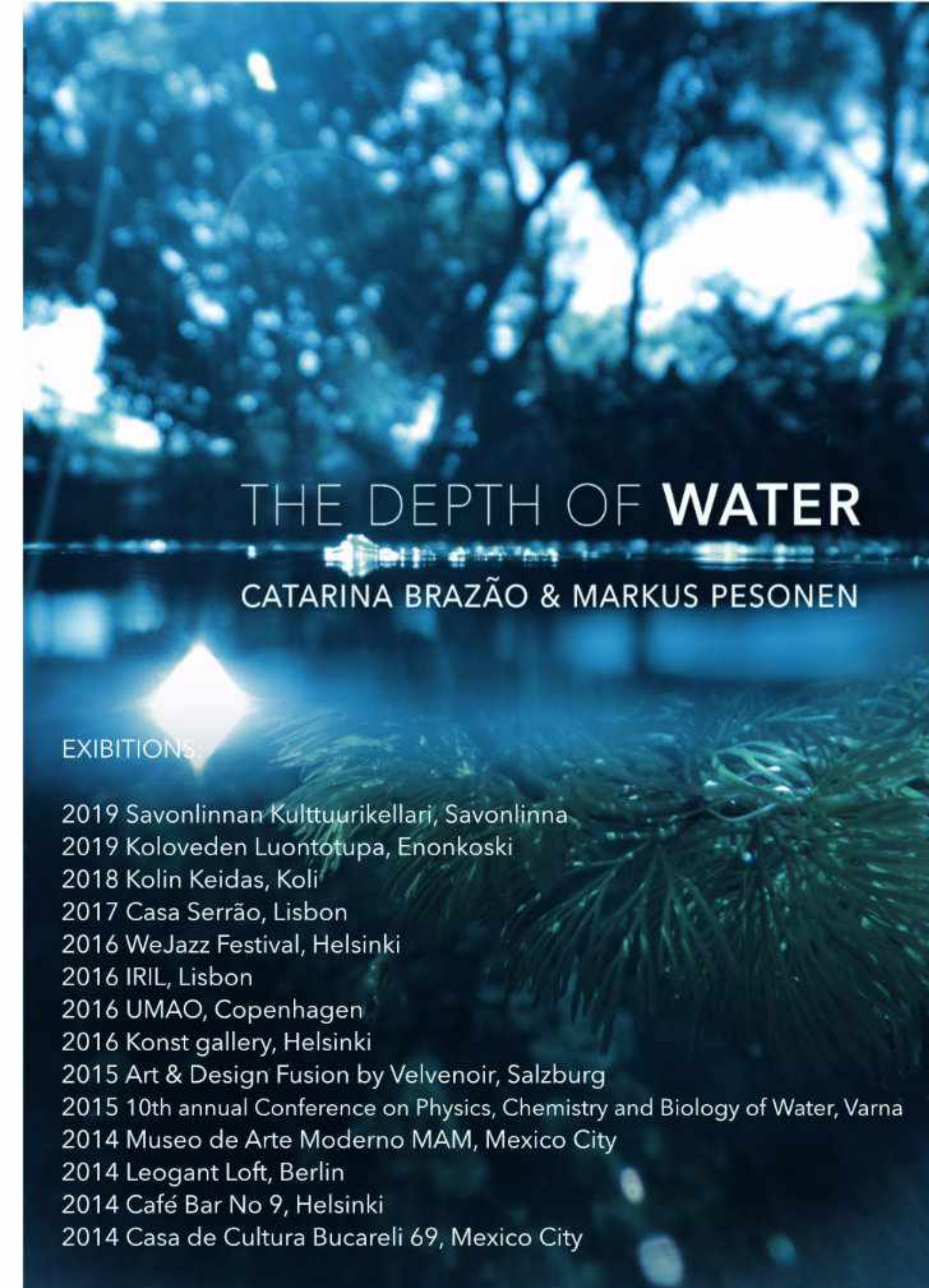
The Depth of Water (2013 -)

Photography exhibition, installation, concert, seminar, workshop and water tasting

The fascination for the various forms and expressions of water has led Markus Pesonen and Catarina Brazão to develop a personal relationship with this elixir of life. Their work is an exploration of the very essence of water and aims to call people's attention to its aliveness – when one sees how water responds, remembers and transforms, one respects it as a living entity and understands its fundamental importance for life.

The Depth of Water photography collection specifically portrays the many expressions of water showing in every picture its distinctively different characters. The photographs of water are captured in places of natural significance, like springs, rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans – uniting and celebrating all of these different locations and terrains. They show the chameleonic qualities of water that mirror its surroundings in light, color, and vibration.

Catarina and Markus' passion for water took them to explore different fields of knowledge like science, health, culture, etc. in order to deepen their understanding of this primordial element of nature. Their extensive research and contact with water has culminated in the development of a series of seminars and events in which they share what they've learned and discovered. **The Depth of Water traveling exhibition** flows like water and shapes itself to its current container. The photography exhibition and sound installation creates the platform for other expressions of the project live concerts, seminars and workshops to be presented.



The Wateristic music is thematically connected to water and its multifaceted characteristics and symbolism. It is a cinematic sound journey – a story without words meant to be inspirational and to touch the body, mind, and emotions of the listener. Its songs invite the listener for an inward journey and to dive deep into the abyss of his/her own subconscious. The music is connected to Markus' water photography that is raising awareness about the aliveness of water.



Wateristic (2018), Humming Sun Records

Markus Pesonen concentrates fully on the possibilities of the guitar and electronics. Sounds of electric and acoustic guitars are processed through the computer, creating a world of possibilities in texture and rhythm. Markus also uses various different playing techniques, tools and preparations to extend the acoustic palette of the instruments. By bringing a synthesis of acoustic and electronic sounds, the Wateristic music grafts a three-dimensional sonic space that has depth and movement.

"Markus Pesonen is a talented and visionary composer and musician. His possesses a wideranging sensibility towards present day life and art, giving his music a feeling of having been created today, if not tomorrow."

– Jacob Anderskov (2011)

"Markus Pesonen is a composer and musician that constantly and consequently seek for new paths in music. He is strongly innovative both in his music and in his perception of life itself. When he improvises you sense that a very special dedicated state of mind is going on within the minute."

– Carsten Dahl (2013)

"Like Hendrix on an intergalactic excursion. And it's beautiful! And poetry unfolds in a curious way in the moments of dissonant peace. (...) a strong statement."

– Allan Sommer, Jazz Special (DK)

"The intensity of musical experiences that the Finnish guitarist, Markus Pesonen – undoubtedly a visionary and an extraordinary composer – puts on the songs as a result of his unlimited imagination is incredible. His songs carry energy and passion, but also show a sense of melody, lyricism and sensitivity."

– Multikulti (PL)

"With time after time surprising resourcefulness of his way to prepare and produce tones, small melodies and sounds on his electric guitar using various objects and effects. And never falling short of them."

– Christian Munch-Hansen, Politiken (DK)



Markus Pesonen Wateristic at Kaivos Festival 2017



Breakfast (2012)

Performance, live electroacoustic music and sound design

The world of BREAKFAST is a kitchen, early in the morning. This is a special moment: between night and day, between wakefulness and abandoned dreams. One is busy with rebuilding himself for the day, arranging his thoughts, and adjusting the reality. Images, smells, news, taste, touch, sounds... These impressions are mixed. The breakfast is also a sensory explosion that can often not be processed immediately.

The live dance film leads the attention of the audience on undefined paths at the hedge between reality and fiction, truth and lies, emotions and comedy. With three cameras on stage recording and showing live on a big screen the relationship, the fights, the dreams of three performers, the audience is brought close to them and is completely part of their emotions and their thoughts.

Working on a technically ambitious large-scale production gave me the confidence to know what it means to be professional. Just the sheer amount of technical challenges I had to solve in creating a wireless interface that can control my live processed wireless electric guitar and complex live electronic music tools gave me a sense of victory when all performances worked without problems. Artistically working with high-level professional and communicating ideas across disciplines and cultures developed a keen ear for understanding everyone. — Markus Pesonen

A coproduction by Taipei Arts Festival and fabrik Potsdam.

Choreography and direction **Shang-Chi Sun**
Text, dramaturgie **Gordon Florenkowsky**
Film **Krzysztof Honowski** Light **Hans Fründt**
Music **Markus Pesonen**

Dance/Camera **Annapaola Leso, Fernando Balsera Pita, Ruben Reniers**
Management **Laurent Dubost**
Producer **Ping Sun** Taipei PR **Ling-Chih Chow**



"A special mention too for Finnish musician Markus Pesonen as he matched the dancers with sometimes dark, almost eerie, sometimes more tuneful sounds produced live from his electric guitar, which at one point he played with a violin bow; and recorded on his tablet."
– David Mead, Ballet-Dance Magazine

Lacuna (2012)

Performance piece with live electroacoustic quadraphonic sound design

We choose what we want to remember, when everything else has been dismissed or forgotten. Our memories are inaccurate, possibly even false, yet we rely on them. In the utopia of having no memories nor a past which we could trace back, what would be left from us?

In this creation we have focused on different aspects of memory and memories. Lacuna is a fragmented journey in a space where collective and individual memories overlap. The blind spots of memory create temporary emptiness, where the only concreteness lies in the body.

The Lacuna production gave me a chance to work with sonic illusions and perfect the three dimensional sound possibilities of the quadraphonic speaker setup. I also studied the room acoustics to create recoding that was inseparable from live guitar playing. The audience thought I was playing live but when suddenly stopped moving it created a surprise and a sudden shift in the perception of reality. — Markus Pesonen

Premiered on the 23rd of June 2012 | bat-studiotheater | Berlin



"Markus Pesonen certainly deserves praise for its sound design"
- Iben Maria Hammer, Terpsichore



Markus Pesonen Hendelectet (2011 -)

Listen online at:
<https://soundcloud.com/markuspesonen>

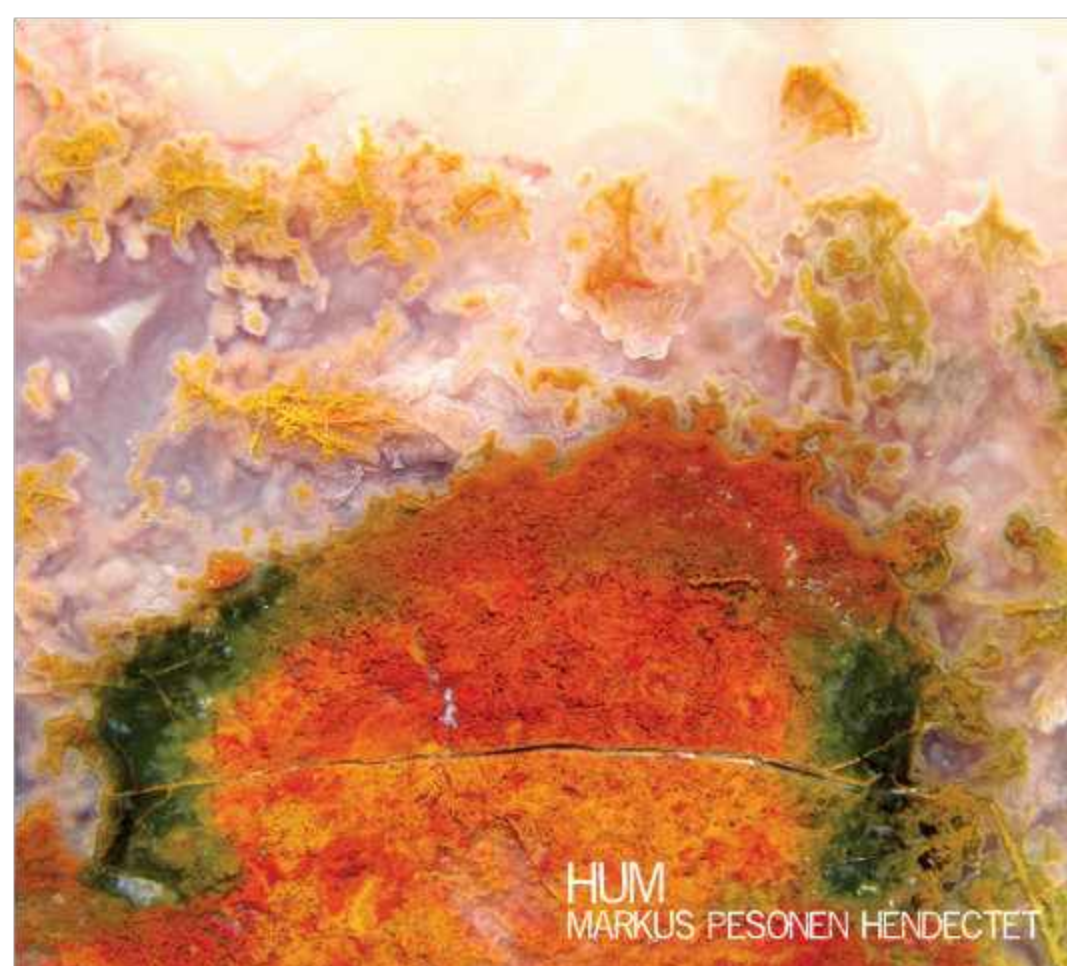
Inventive eleven-piece orchestra uniting an international group of musicians

Following the critically acclaimed release of Hum in 2011, the band released its second album, Padme in 2014, on the Danish label and musician-run collective Barefoot Records and did two large-scale tours in Europe in 2012 and 2014.

The band enlivens a vast sound terrain stretching from contrabass clarinet to piccolo and further expanded by electronics, where musicians create an electrifying spectrum of emotions and atmospheres. Existing in the space between the extremities, Markus Pesonen Hendelectet's music brings a listener into acute awareness of the physical presence of sound.

A hendelectet's song enters into a spectacular chemical reaction with place and time, rejuvenating with each performance. That is, not only there's room for improvisation, but also the process of composing continues on stage, being informed by improvisation and reacting to it. There are openings inside the compositions, which allow Pesonen as a conductor to take a lead and turn across traffic. Such twofold use of improvisation keeps up the heat of the band's live performances.

Anna Chekassina (RU) - voice and violin, **Live Berger Brekke** (NO) - accordion, **Adam Pultz Melbye** (DK) - bass, **Marc Lohr** (LU) - drums and electronics, **Otis Sandsjö** (SE) - saxophones and clarinet, **Liudas Mockunas** (LI) - saxophones and clarinets, **Frank Gratkowski** (DE) - saxophones, clarinets and flutes, **Tobias Wiklund** (SE) - trumpet and flugelhorn, **Petter Hängsel** (SE) - trombone, **Jonatan Ahlbom** (SE) - tuba, **Markus Pesonen** (FI) - guitar, lap steel and electronics



Hum (2011), Unit Records (CH)



Padme (2014), Barefoot Records (DK)



★★★★ (5/5) "Out of nowhere comes one of the highlights of the jazz year: a colorful, intense, and fearless album that showcases the extraordinary visionary composer and orchestra leader. Who the heck is this Pesonen?"
– Pentti Ronkanen, Keskiuomalainen (FI)





The Hendectet gave me the chance to mature as composer, arranger, bandleader, cover artist, booker, tour manager and human. Working through all the layers of the music world gave me the understanding of what it takes to bring the idea from my imagination to paper, then through musicians to an album and finally back to the imagination of the listener. I learned what it takes to keep a big project vital and alive even with minimal resources and most of all how to get most out of my musicians. How to find the balance in using their special talents but also challenge them to find something new and surprise themselves. The Hendectet was the real school for me. — Markus Pesonen

Lira likes "I cannot really get my head around Markus Pesonen's musical universe - which makes me happy. A record to return to!" – Johan Scherwin, Lira (SE)

(4/5) "With his eleven piece band Markus Pesonen managed to record an album which oscillates between organized chaos and chaotic organization and convinces with an enormous richness in colors." – Jazz 'n' more (CH)

"With HUM, Markus Pesonen has created a wonderful and wild work, where together with his eleven-piece orchestra he explores all kinds of sounds. There is plenty of power and punch in this music, but also liberating detours to more calmer passages." – Jakob Bækgaard, Geiger (DK)

"A record that presents a group of young super talented jazz musicians." – Niels Overgård, Jazznyt (DK)

"The musicians sound like they're having a blast, and Pesonen's compositions provide the space to improvise without leaving the reservation." – eMusic

"This album was a very positive surprise. Its multi-faceted orientation, rhythmic variations, and the controlled entity had a great performance. (...) Really worth listening!" – Osku Rajala, Jazz rytmit (FI)

(4/5) "Massive eleven-piece-band with a giant toolbox." – Peter Bornemar, Dig Jazz (SE)

★★★★★ (5/5) "One of the most exciting and definitely the best albums of this year (...) Like poetry." – Jani Ekblom, Desibeli (FI)

"Hum deserves attention first and foremost for its musical virtues: works composed for the eleven person Hendectet-collective are bold and rowdy, while also being relaxed; permeated by a strong visions of their own." – Harri Uusitorppa, Helsingin Sanomat (FI)

"It is heart and sensitivity that propels this large band and the six young horns in Pesonen's collective seem as if they have more balls and recklessness than the whole Danish Radio Big Band combined." – Christian Munch-Hansen, Politiken (DK)

"The end result of the visionary approach of Pesonen' skillful arrangements is curious and shows a rich musical kaleidoscope which ripples down to small ingenious details." – Hannu Lahtonen, Business Magazine Top10 of 2015 (FI)

"Hum is an album that challenges the ears as often as it gives comfort, if not more. It's a very exciting development anytime a new voice on the jazz scene puts forth an uncompromising recording of his or her vision, with a display of confidence and high musicianship. Just outstanding." – Bird is the Worm

"Expansive, nuanced pieces that do have the elusive Nordic lyrical-melancholic vibe, but can shift to fiery and intense eruptions and resonate with otherworldly electronics sounds. Highly recommended." – Eyal Hareuveni, Salt Peanuts (DK)

"Markus Pesonen Hendectet take advantage of a surprise moment one hundred percent. In addition to the large number composition is characterized by impulsivity impression of creative layering" – Matti Komulainen, TS