

Conference schedule

Wednesday 25 February 2026	
18.00-20.00	Registration (Wintertuin)
18.00-20.00	Reception & networking (Wintertuin)
Thursday 26 February 2026	
9.30-10.00	Registration (Room 212)
9.30-10.00	Coffee / tea break (Room 212)
10.00-10.30	Welcome & institutional announcements – Matthias Heyman (EhB/KCB), Kristin Van den Buys (EhB/KCB), Michael Kahr (JAM, KuG) (Room 212)
10.30-12.00	Room 212 – chair: Matthias Heyman Tom Sykes (Liverpool Hope University): <i>Pedagogy, access and artistic development in extra-curricular jazz practice</i> Heli Reimann (Tallinn University): <i>Musical Improvisation and Space: Some Theoretical Observations</i> Alexis Cairns (University of York): <i>Nurturing confidence and skill in jazz improvisation: Creating safe spaces for beginner jazz learners</i> (ONLINE)
12.00-13.00	Lunch (Room 212)
13.00-14.30	Room 212 – chair: Monika Herzig Filippo Deorsola (Vrije Universiteit Brussel): <i>“Putting Sound to Work” – The Prepared Piano as an epistemic device and a form of cognitive disruption</i> Philipp Gerschlauser (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna): <i>Embodied Microtonality: Listening, Intonation, and Pedagogy in Contemporary Jazz</i> Zoran Šćekić (independent): <i>The Art of Spectral Groups</i> (ONLINE)
14.30-15.00	Coffee / tea break (Room 212)
15.00-16.30	Room 212 – chair: Andrew Bain David Adepegba (University of Pittsburgh): <i>From Sacred Grooves to Digital Streams: Yoruba Rhythmic Legacies in Online Jazz Spaces</i> (ONLINE) Luis Mora Matus (EhB/KCB, VUB): <i>Mapping the Known Territory: A System Inspired by Progressive Metal drummers to Expand Contemporary Jazz Drumming Improvisation and Composition</i> Eugene Seow (LASALLE College of the Arts): <i>Pocket as Embodied Space: Reflections from the Bandstand</i>
16.30-17.00	Coffee / tea break (Room 212)
17.00-18.00	Room 212 + online – chair: Mike Fletcher Birmingham City University Jazz Studies cluster session (ONLINE)
20.30-22.30	Concert Nicolas Kummert MOVING SOUNDS (Jazzstation): free entrance, participants are invited to join in (drums, piano & amplifiers present)

Friday 27 February 2026	
9.30-10.00	Coffee / tea break (Room 212)
10.10-10.30	Warm-up / From Self to Space, Sebastian Bailey (University of Toronto) (Room 212)
10.30-12.00	Room 212 – chair: Sebastian Bailey Julia Shved (Sydney Conservatorium of Music): <i>Sounding Resilience: Cultural Diplomacy and Emotional Well-being Among Displaced Ukrainian Musicians</i> Ari Poutiainen (University of Helsinki): <i>Silence Hidden by the Music – An Approach to Teaching, Studying and Performing Improvisation in a Small Instrumental Group</i> Ellie Martin (Coastal Carolina University): <i>Unravelling: Embodied Strands of Motherhood in Song</i>
12.00-13.00	Lunch (Room 212)
13.00-14.30	Room 212 – chair: Birgitta Flick Piergiorgio Pirro (EhB/KCB): <i>Encounters at the Crossing – Investigating Jazz Tradition in Dialogue with the Belgian and French Jazz Avant-Garde</i> Max Peterson (University of Sidney): <i>Third Stream Music in Europe</i> Daniel Blake (John Jay College of Criminal Justice): <i>The Practicing Body: Developing Experimental Techniques in New York's Improvised Music Scene</i>
14.30-15.00	Coffee / tea break (Room 212)
15.00-16.30	Room 212 – chair: Michael Kahr Rik Cornelissen (KULeuven/Orpheus Institute): <i>The performer as a site for reciprocal transformation through home-recordings</i> Toby Armstrong (University of West London): <i>Structure, Intention and Language: A Tripartite Model for Interpreting Improvising Composers' Decisions in Shifting Spaces</i> Nicolas Kummert (AP University College/Royal Antwerp Conservatoire): <i>Shared embodiment of an improvised hybrid instrument</i>
16.30-17.00	Closing remarks – The conference team (Room 212)
17.00-18.00	INARJ board meeting: all participants welcome! (Room 212)

Locations:

[Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel](#) – Campus Kaai: Nijverheidskaai 170, 1070 Anderlecht (Brussels)

→ Wintertuin is on the ground floor (“student restaurant”) of building C

→ Room 212 is on the second floor (“jazz floor”) of building C. Equipped with piano, drums, amplifiers, sound system & projector screen

[Jazzstation](#): jazz club at Chaussée de Louvain 193a–195, 1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode (Brussels)

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