

KEIN

Francois Sarhan, Composer



KEIN is a continuing exploration and extension of François Sarhan's fascination with the absurd, counterintuitive and virtuosic in both presentation and performance practice.

The four performers of Red Note's core string quartet have been given a number of familiar / unfamiliar newly designed and constructed instruments-the majority derived from Stroh instruments - to play by François, as well as being required to create a performance that embraces the use of the voice, theatrical techniques and François' use of a distinctive mise en scène in his characteristically absorbing visual and musical style.

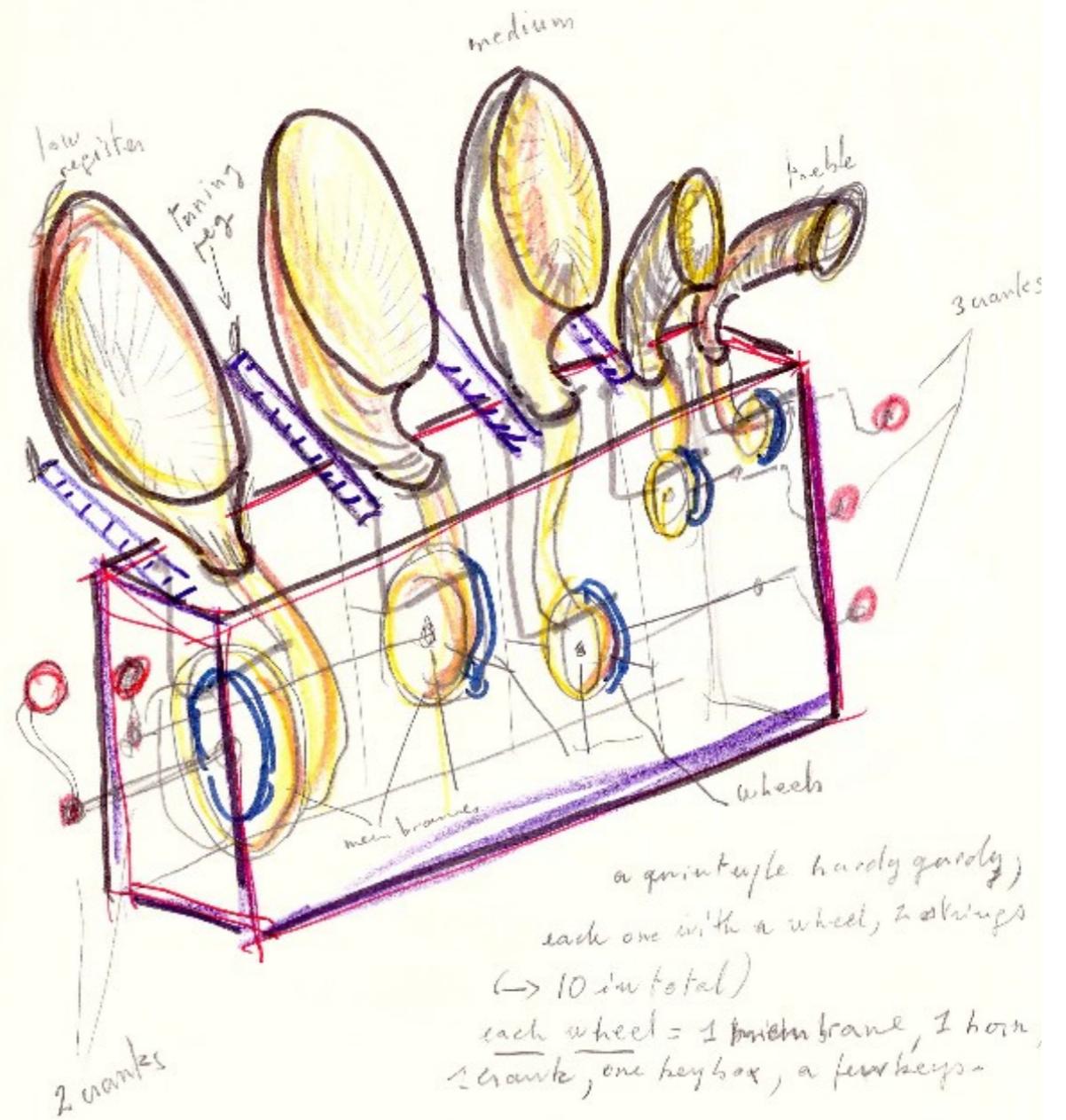
Compositionally, the topic of the piece is to playfully question the various combinations within a string quartet, from the solo and the duo, to the quartet, and eventually the addition of mechanical instruments (pipe organ and miniature hurdy-gurdy amongst them) as counterparts.

The role-playing games go with spoken text, the interchangeability of the instruments, and their positions in space, as well as recurrent motifs. The reason for the use of the unfamiliar instruments is to emphasise the relationships between the musicians and their instruments - counterintuitively, as ever with François, by creating a distance between them.





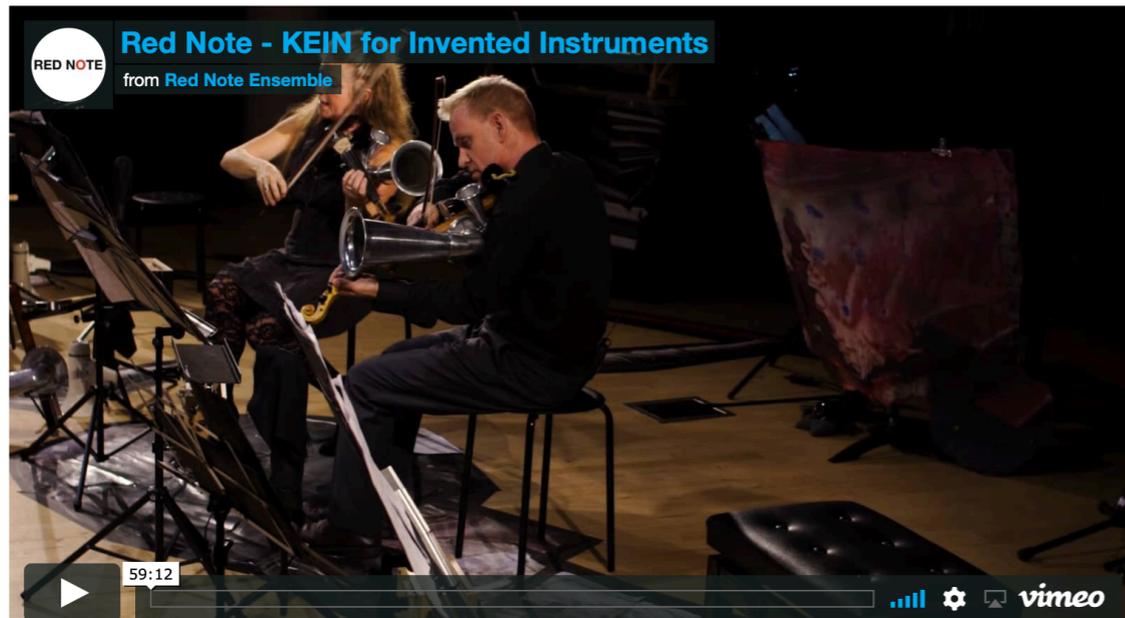
HUNDY-GURDY STRON



a quintuple hardy gurdy,
 each one with a wheel, 2 strings
 (→ 10 in total)
 each wheel = 1 membrane, 1 horn,
 1 crank, one key box, a few keys

FS 5

FILM



CREDITS

François Sarhan, Composer, director

Red Note Ensemble:

Jackie Shave, violin

Tom Hankey, violin

Katie Wilkinson, viola

Robert Irvine, cello

Production Manager: Kostas Christakos

Producer: Katja Armknecht

Francois Sarhan (France)

French composer, director and visual artist, performed in Asia, Africa, America and Europe. He studied composition with Brian Ferneyhough, Jonathan Harvey, Magnus Lindberg, Philippe Manoury, Tristan Murail, Guy Reibel. In addition, he studied analysis, aesthetics, cello, conducting, and harmony and counterpoint with various teachers, in addition to attending Jacques Roubaud 's seminars on compared poetics at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes (Paris, 1999-2002).

He received his diploma in composition from the Conservatoire National de Paris in 1995. Subsequently he attended composition master classes in Szombathely (Hungary) with Brian Ferneyhough and Marco Stroppa (1996-97) with the aid of several SACEM grants as well as working at IRCAM(1997-98). He then graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in analysis (1999) and composition (2000).

His works have been presented at international festivals, including Musica (Strasbourg), Donaueschingen, Wittener Musik Tagen, Ars Musica (Brussels), Holland Festival, Maerzmusik (Berlin), etc. He composed a chamber opera for the Aix-en-Provence Lyrical Art Festival (July 2003), as well as a first monographic CD for the French label Zig zag Territoires. Numerous French soloists, including Nicolas Dautricourt, Céline Frisch, Noemi Boutin, Bela quartet, François Salque, Alexandre Tharaud, Dimitri Vassilakis, Samuel Favre, Vanessa Wagner, Diotima Quartet, Bela Quartet have performed his works. Ensemble Modern (Frankfurt), Ensemble Recherche, Ictus Ensemble, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radiofrance, among others, regularly commission and perform his compositions.

He is noted for creating his own music-theatre and multimedia works in which he himself often performs. In 2010 he collaborated with South African artist William Kentridge on Telegrams from the Nose, which was presented more than 30 times at major festivals and venues all over Europe. In the same year he created the chamber opera King Lear. When he opened his first exhibition in Paris, he initiated a new aspect of his art, with videos, collages and artist books.

Sarhan taught at IRCAM between 1998 and 2002, and at the Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg since 1999. Since 2015 he teaches composition at the UdK (Berlin) and occasionally at the Musikhochschule in Dresden.

He wrote a History of Music (published in 2002 by Flammarion, Paris), and is the initiator of the artistic collective CRWTH, which has created and performed multimedia projects since 2000.

Recent projects include a film and music theatre work produced by LOD, in Gent, called Lachez tout! (Enough Already), with the Red Note Ensemble, a compilation of the texts from his Encyclopedia to be published in French by JM Place publishing house, a large exhibition organized by Chambord Castle in France. In 2016, he premiered KEIN with the Red Note Ensemble and la philosophie dans le boudoir with the Neue Vocal Solisten Stuttgart.

Sarhan was a guest teacher in Darmstadt Ferien Kurse in 2016, where he also presented two new pieces: Commodity music and Who really was Mario Bossi. In 2017 he presented One Shot Train in Basel and Wien, and Potence à Paratonnerre in Eclat Festival. In 2017-2018 Sarhan was in residence in the Schloss Theater Moers, where he wrote and directed four theatre shows as well as a movie, called The Suitcase.

Red Note Ensemble

Red Note performs the established classics of contemporary music, commissions new music, develops the work of new and emerging composers and performers from Scotland and around the world, and finds new spaces and new ways of performing contemporary music to attract new audiences. Within Scotland the ensemble has performed from the Outer Hebrides to the Borders in concert halls, bothies, pubs, clubs and aircraft hangars, amongst other unusual settings. Outwith the UK it has a growing international reputation, performing to great acclaim at festivals in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Australia.

The ensemble also undertakes an extensive programme of Access, Engagement and Participation (AEP) work, focusing particularly upon working with younger and older people, people with multiple disabilities, people living in areas of multiple deprivation, and also working to address inequalities of access and representation due to race/ethnicity and gender imbalances. Red Note also undertake an extensive performer and composer development programme within schools, universities and conservatoires nationally and internationally.

Red Note is Associate Contemporary Ensemble at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow and Associate Ensemble of the sound festival Aberdeen. Red Note is a Delphian Records recording artist, recently releasing CDs of music by Eddie McGuire, John McLeod and David Wilde to great acclaim.

More information at www.rednoteensemble.com

PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE DATES

November 2016

hcmf Huddersfield, UK

Festival Musiques Démesurées, France

October 2016

Sound Festival, Aberdeen, UK

SUPPORTED BY

Creative Scotland, Diaphonique Franco-British Fund for Contemporary Music, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and soundfestival.

Produced by hcmf