



**I'mPULSE:
5th Asia-Europe Music Camp**

presents

**CRACKING BAMBOO
International Percussion Music Festival**

15-28 September 2008

*Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; Jakarta,
Indonesia; Vientiane, Laos; Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Brief

Many contemporary percussion instruments in European music have their roots in Asian cultures. Twentieth century composers have developed a wide variety of positions in terms of their understanding and handling of percussion instruments from other cultures. If they were at first used simply as 'acoustic sound-spices' for compositions, recently a more complex view of the function of these instruments is developing: they are a key to understanding other cultures because they are relatively simple to relate to.

In keeping to its commitment to facilitate Asian and European understanding and exchange in the field of music, the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** organised its flagship music programme **I'mPULSE: Asia-Europe Music Camp**, an initiative designed to nurture the development of innovative methods and practices in music through the empowerment of young musicians from Asia and Europe. Initiated in 2005, **I'mPULSE** seeks to maintain a process-oriented platform for young musicians in Asia and Europe by encouraging and engaging them in continuous dialogue on innovative music concepts. For the programme's fifth edition, **I'mPULSE**, will be mixing music, sounds and cultures from traditional percussion instruments in Asia, with contemporary music from Europe. It will also be presenting the very first **CRACKING BAMBOO International Percussion Music Festival**.

CRACKING BAMBOO is a concept aiming for a better exchange and encounter between Southeast Asian and European music. The connecting link is percussion instruments, which offer, more so than other instruments, possible reference points which permit occidental music to relate to traditional non-European music. Happening for the first time in September 2008, the project offers a platform for an encounter between percussionists with "modern" instruments from Europe and their forefathers, the traditional instruments of Southeast Asia, for a musical dialogue in mutual respect. This percussion music festival is envisioned to be held as an annual event beyond this initial collaboration with **I'mPULSE**.

For this year's undertaking, **I'mPULSE** and **CRACKING BAMBOO** will engage up to 40 young musicians, composers, students and musicologists from Europe and Asia in a dialogue through comprehensive music experimentation and performance with percussion as the connecting link. Musicians will be given the opportunity to share their passion in creating and recreating music through the 12-days of workshops, master classes and public performances in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ha Long Bay). Its scope, however, is not limited to Vietnam but rather it provides stimulation for possible future projects and network building in neighboring countries in the region, such as Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia.

I'mPULSE Indochina and **CRACKING BAMBOO** are joint initiatives of **ASEF**, the **Goethe-Institut Vietnam** and the **Vietnam National Academy of Music (VNAM)**, and is supported by **L'Espace Centre Culturel Français de Hanoi** and the **ULTIMA Oslo Contemporary Music Festival** in Vietnam;

the **Goethe-Institut Jakarta** in Indonesia; the **Centre de Langue Française** in Laos (CCCL); and by **Meta House** and **Art+Foundation** in Cambodia.

Programme

Phase 1: 15 – 22 September 2008, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

The programme will gather 40 participants from Asia and Europe in **Hanoi, Vietnam** from the **15 to 22 September**. For the first phase of the project, participants will work in three mixed (half European, half Asian) ensemble groups creating a 35-40 minute programme in which individual solo contributions, improvisation and/or short composed segments should result in a “composed” or arranged programme. The resulting programmes will be performed in 2 concerts at the Hanoi Opera House and at the island caves in Ha Long Bay.

Phase 2: 22 – 26 September 2008, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

22 – 27 September Jakarta, Indonesia, &

22 – 28 September 2008, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Vientiane, Laos

The three groups will then be disbanded and formed into new groups for the second phase, giving the participants equal opportunities to create and perform music with each other. The three new groups will travel to three different venues in South East Asia: one group will travel to **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**, a second group to **Jakarta, Indonesia**, and the third group to **Vientiane, Laos and Phnom Penh, Cambodia**. These venues will provide opportunities for the participation of additional local musicians through workshops and other activities that will lead the path to a newly “composed” programme and final concert.

The required rehearsal and direction will be conducted by artistic tutors who are experienced in working with improvisation models and cooperative projects and have successfully demonstrated their abilities as integration figures working with very diverse mixed ensembles. The tutors are not only percussionists – their contributions as singers or wind musicians also complement the programme. They will be working and discussing with the participants, form the artistic backbone of the programme and their expertise guarantee good results.

The tutors for this year’s programme are Udai Mazumdar (India, tabla), Pierre Stephane Meugé (France, saxophone), Murat Coskun (Germany/Turkey, hand drum), Françoise Vanhecke (Belgium, voice), S.Badamkhorol (Mongolia, voice), Wu Wei (China, sheng) and from Vietnam Vu Nhat Tan (composer, bamboo flute and live electronics) and Kim Ngoc (composer). Prof. Bernhard Wulff (Germany) will serve as the artistic director for the project.

Participating musicians from various European countries include the Freiburg Percussion Ensemble (whose members hail from Germany, Japan, Korea and UK), the SISU Ensemble from Oslo (members from Norway and Sweden) and an "EU" Quartet Ensemble composed of individual participants from Italy, France, Netherlands and Denmark. From Southeast Asia four small percussion ensembles are expected: two from Hanoi, one from Saigon, one from Indonesia and one from Cambodia.

In addition, six soloists from Asia (China, Laos, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) have also been invited to join. They are young percussionists who will be given the opportunity to gather new experiences and participate in a dialogue with musicians from other countries.

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**I'mPULSE: 5th Asia-Europe Music Camp and Cracking Bamboo
International Percussion Music Festival is a collaboration of:**



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focused on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations. Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)¹, ASEF reports to a board of governors representing the ASEM partners. ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. Since 1997, the Foundation has initiated projects engaging 14,000 individuals from Asia and Europe. ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries. <http://www.asef.org>

ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. <http://www.aseminfoboard.org>



The **Goethe-Institut Hanoi** was founded in 1997 and is, together with Shanghai, the youngest Institut in Asia. Its main intention is to foster the cultural exchange between Vietnam, Germany and Europe. The Institut organizes a broad range of cultural activities, presenting German culture in Asia and intensifying the cultural dialogue between our countries. In addition to this, Goethe-Institut also offer courses of German as a Foreign Language for adults, as well as various workshops and methodological seminars for German Language teachers throughout the year. Their small media centre offers all kind of information about the cultural, social and political life in today's Germany. The stock of books, magazines, newspapers, videos, CDs and DVDs in the centre serves all those who are interested in Germany and who want to learn or teach German. <http://www.goethe.de/hanoi>



The **Vietnam National Academy of Music**, originally established in 1956 as the Việt Nam School of Music (Trường Âm nhạc Việt Nam) and conferred university status in 1982, the academy is Việt Nam's premier music training, research and performance institute. It offers seven-year Elementary and Secondary Certificate programmes, four-year Secondary Certificate programmes and four-year Bachelor of Music programmes, plus two-year Master of Music programmes and Doctoral research. The academy currently has over 1,000 students at various levels. The majority of its 200-plus teaching staff (which include 17 Nghệ sĩ Ưu tú or Excellent Artists) are graduates of overseas conservatories in the former Soviet Union, Western Europe, North America and Japan. To date the institution has trained over 7,500 students, including overseas students from Russia, France, Japan, Germany, China, the United States, Cambodia and Laos. The Conservatory also functions as an important music performance centre, staging numerous concerts throughout the year in the [Hà Nội Conservatory of Music Concert Hall](#). VNAM also participates in many exchange programmes with overseas conservatories, sending its musical ensembles abroad to perform and teach and in turn hosting performance and teaching visits by many internationally-acclaimed orchestras and soloists. <http://www.nhacvienhanoi.vn>