

## **"Speak// if you can": text, scores, performance**

**Café Oto – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 – 8pm –**  
£10 in advance, £12 at the door. £18 for both evenings, 20£ at the door.



*(story of) – E.Waeckerlé, A.Beuger - KLANGRAUM 17 (Düsseldorf).*

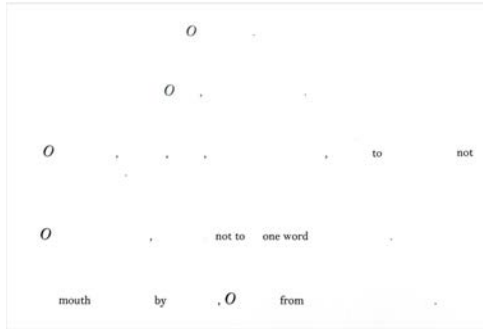
*Two evenings of performances of text based scores by Antoine Beuger and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé, realised by Antoine Beuger, John Eyles, Sarah Hughes, Petri Huurinainen, Charlotte Keefe, Will Montgomery, Artur Vidal and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé*

“Speak// if you can” brings together a composer, a writer and several interpreters of text scores. The evenings will explore the points of transformation and translation between text and sound. Antoine Beuger, a founder member of the Wandelweiser collective, has a long established interest in the crossovers between text scores and literary and philosophical texts. Earlier this year, his label released an acoustic rendering of *The Story of O*, as re-composed by UK-based interdisciplinary artist Emmanuelle Waeckerlé. Taking the work of Waeckerlé and Beuger as a starting point, the two evenings will present new configurations of voice and musical sound, building on George Oppen’s injunction: “Speak// if you can”.

*Curated by Will Montgomery and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé with support from the Royal Holloway Poetics Research Centre; the Humanities and Arts Research Institute, Royal Holloway; and the University of the Creative Arts research fund.*

• **Evening one: three pieces from Emmanuelle Waeckerlé's *Ode***

**(owed) to O:** (*Story of*), *O(hh)* and *O(nly)*.



*O(hh)* score (detail)

This is the UK launch event for Waeckerlé's CD *Ode (owed) to O*, released by influential German label Wandelweiser in 2017. The three pieces will be performed by an ensemble of musicians with long experience of working across text and sound. Waeckerlé's *Ode (owed) to O* subjects Pauline Réage's well known novel of sexualised self-abasement to a set of deformations that translate it into the sphere of acoustic sounding. A book version, *Reading (Story of) O* (Uniformbooks, 2015), a graphic reworking of the English and French versions of the original story and accompanying reading instructions, will be available at the event.

• **Evening two: two compositions by Antoine Beuger:** *keine fernem mehr* and ...*of being numerous*.

Performing "... OF BEING NUMEROUS" we would try to be as detached, as much by ourselves, as possible. We would all be involved in the same kind of things: playing a "phrase" (some "phrases") with some mostly longish, quiet sounds; articulate a slow, but regular pulse with 2 little stones; reading some words, or syllables or letters from a poem one brought or knew by heart (just to oneself); humming a melody, so quietly, that maybe only oneself would hear it; making a very soft, continuous, spectrally complex frictional sound (paper on paper, stone on stone, paper on wood, finger on skin, ...); moving dry leaves from one bowl to another, trying to make no sounds; etc.; or just being silent, listening inward rather than outward.

This way, we would be both solitary and numerous, connected and free-floating, in a world of pure coincidence, which, to us, meant: grace."

*of being numerous (from the memory of RN excerpt)*

This evening offers a rare UK opportunity to witness the Wandelweiser founder and label boss performing his own compositions. Beuger's solo performance of *keine fernem mehr* will be followed by an ensemble performance of *of being numerous*. Wandelweiser composers such as Beuger, Michael Pisaro and Manfred Werder have often worked with poetry. Beuger's composition is built on George Oppen's influential 1968 poem "Of Being Numerous".

## Biographies

Antoine Beuger founded edition wandelweiser with Burkhard Schlothauer in 1992 and has been managing director since 2004. In 1994 he started his now widely known concert series KLANGRAUM (Düsseldorf). Beuger's music has been performed worldwide, and he has received several international prizes.

<http://www.wandelweiser.de>

John Eyles has played alto saxophone since the early eighties when he bought a second-hand instrument from a music shop in Kilburn High Road. He has been a member of Eddie Prevost's workshop since 2010 and was a founder member of the Mopomoso Workshop.

Sarah Hughes is an artist, composer and performer, producing work that explores the boundaries of interdisciplinary practice, often moving between sculpture, installation, composition, and performance. <https://sarahhughes.org/>

Petri Huurinainen is a Finnish musician and artist currently living in London. He works predominantly with live sound and guitar performances and drawings.

<http://www.phuurinainen.com/>

Charlotte Keeffe is a trumpet player. She performs with the London Improvisers Orchestra and various other ensembles as well as at music Festivals accompanying the likes of Will Young, Charlotte Church and Kate Nash. Charlotte helped John Russell establish the Mopomoso Workshop Group.

<https://www.charlottekeeffe.com/> <http://www.mopomoso.com>

Will Montgomery's audio work has appeared on the nonvisualobjects, Entr'acte, Winds Measure, Every Contact without a Trace, Organised Music from Thessaloniki and Cathnor labels. His most recent CD is a realisation of a score written for him by Ryoka Akama, released on the Suppedaneum label. He teaches contemporary poetry and poetics at Royal Holloway, University of London. [www.selvageflame.com](http://www.selvageflame.com)

Artur Vidal is a Spanish-born saxophone player who grew up in Paris where he studied music and history of art. Currently, in London, he is doing research on improvised music and practices composer Pauline Oliveros' *Sonic Meditations*.

[www.arturvidal.com](http://www.arturvidal.com)

Emmanuelle Waeckerlé is a London based interdisciplinary artist, writer and performer. She is one third of *Bouche Bée* improvising trio on the edges of Language, with Petri Huurinainen (guitar) and John Eyles (saxophone) and a Reader in photography and relational practices at University for the Creative Art in Farnham. Recent publications include *Ode (owed) to O* (edition wandelweiser records, 2017), *RISE WITH YOUR CLASS NOT FROM IT* (bookRoom press, 2016) *Reading (story of) O* (uniformbooks, 2015), *Code X - paper, pixel, ink and screen* (bookRoom press, 2015).

[www.ewaeckerle.com](http://www.ewaeckerle.com)

<http://www.wandelweiser.de/e-w-records/ewr-catalogue/ewr1712-13.html>



(story of) – Antoine beuger - KLANGRAUM 17



O(nly) – John Eyles, Ryan Dohoney, Alex Mah, Andre O. Moeller , Antoine Beuger, – KLANGRAUM 17



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