



About:

Charlotte Hug is a musician (viola & voice), composer, media artist, and visual artist. Her [musical-visual solo performances](#) are stunning, her sound-drawings Son-Icons and [Temporary Son-Icons](#) are innovative and she created a new genre of multidisciplinary music and art. With her [intermedia compositions](#) and room-scores with Son-Icons she offers compositional settings, where [intercultural and artistic resources](#) of the musicians and artists can be integrated, flourish and constantly evolve. Excerpts of the collaboration with the [Lucerne Festival Academy](#). www.charlottehug.ch

Charlotte Hug composer-performer (viola & voice) & media artist

Charlotte Hug, Swiss-born inter-media artist, composer, improviser, and musician of the extreme. Her innovative musical-visual solo performances in distinctive locations and her interdisciplinary work have created an international furor. Since 1998, she has regularly performed in the Rhône Glacier or, more recently, for several weeks in the Brazilian Mata Atlântica jungle. She often chooses powerful places in nature for her artistic research, places that are also fragile and threatened with disappearance.

Hug is constantly breaking new ground with her voice and has reinvented the viola. Her specialty is also a blend of viola and vocals using high falsetto, vibrating glottal sounds, multiphonics, and language-like-articulation. Hug seeks to develop instrumental and vocal techniques to their fullest extent, resulting in an unmistakable and unique tonal language.

She has recorded an extensive discography, amongst others with Elliott Sharp, Maggie Nicols, Caroline Kraabel, Lucas Niggli, and several albums with the London Stellari String Quartet (Phil Wachsmann, Marcio Mattos & John Edwards, etc., including four solo albums on international labels.

Having completed her studies in fine arts, pedagogy and classical music, and won diverse awards such as “artist residences” in London, Paris, Berlin, Johannesburg, Shanghai, the international composer fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, she was “artiste étoile” at the world-renowned Lucerne Festival, nominated for the Classic:Next - Innovation Award 2019 and winner of the Swiss Music Prize 2025.

“Son-Icons” are the core of Hug’s artistic work and research. Son-Icons are music to be seen, hybrids of visual art and musical notation. Hug developed a composition method with Son-Icons for interdisciplinary and intercultural contexts. Her works and Spatial-Scores are played by international ensembles (Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, Ensemble SuperMusique Montréal, Via Nova Choir Munich, Lucerne Festival Orchestra, the soloist ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra and the Dance Company FATC Johannesburg, etc.). She also creates Live-Scoring directly on stage.

An important influence and inspiration were the long-standing participation in the London improvisers Orchestra. As a result, Hug developed open concepts and conducted the SPIO São Paulo Improvisers Orchestra, the KIO the Krakow Improvisers Orchestra, the SPYO styrian Improvisers Orchestra and together with Magda Mayas she founded the LUJO Lucerne Improvisers Orchestra.

In addition to exhibitions, she is fully active as a concert performer, soloist, composer and conductor of her own works at major festivals in Europe, North - and Latin America, Canada, South Africa, Russia, and China (SWR Donaueschinger Musiktage, Berliner Festspiele, MaerzMusik, FIMAV Festival International Musique Actuelle Victoriaville, San Francisco International Arts Festival, Festival international musicà SESC São Paulo, Festival Infecting the City in Cape Town etc.)

Hug gives master classes in improvisation and “inter-media composition”. She was a teaching artist at McGill University at the Sibelius Academy Helsinki, the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, the Montreal, CNMAT of the University of California Berkeley, the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, the China Academy of Art Hangzhou, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, etc.

She is a professor for Contemporary Improvisation, performance and Intermedia Creation at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts Musi and head of the international postgraduate studies Creation & Scenario in Music at the Zurich University of the Arts.