



Electronic Music Malta

Annual Administrative Report
2019

Electronic Music Malta

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Chairman's Statement

The year 2019 has been a year of two completely different faces. It was a year in which the strength of our young organisation was truly put to test. In the first half of the year we witnessed a challenging couple of months in which interest and attendances to our events were, so far, the lowest from the start of EMM's formation.

We had a diverse programme which culminated in our yearly "Circuits" conference / festival during which edition we featured the first professional equipment stand ever setup at a similar event in Malta. Yet the response to this event was minimal, after which the general feedback we obtained was that our organisation needed to promote itself more or else it risked becoming irrelevant with the resulting consequence that it would cease to exist altogether.



Yet, during the summer months, we stood up to the challenge and introduced new members to the committee who together, developed an exciting new strategy. In fact, thanks to this strategy, our organisation managed to secure a 3-year partnership with the Arts Council Malta. This new fervour brought us also to secure a new strategic partnership with Heritage Malta with which we managed to bring over to Malta the most promising and talented Theremin player in the world – Carolina Eyck. This event was held in the impressive Grand Salon Hall at the National Museum of Archaeology and was sponsored by the Goethe Foundation (thanks to the German / Maltese Circle).

EMM also ended the year with a new developments in its governing structure and committee with the appointment of a young new secretary, Martina Camilleri and several new members to the board. During the AGM, amendments to the statute were approved with more focus now being directed to the Circuits programme and with the organisation's objectives now focusing on innovation, research, education and performances.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the numerous members of the committee and close friends of our organisation who helped us go through this difficult, yet, at the end, rewarding year. I look forward to the year 2020 during which we aim to not only organise innovative events, but also manage projects which will leave a longer lasting effect to the Maltese artistic community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Edwin Balzan". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

Edwin Balzan
Chairman, Electronic Music Malta.

Annual Report

Raw Chicks.Berlin (documentary screening) – 13th February 2019



Electronic Music Malta in collaboration with the Malta Sound Women Network, presented the screening of the documentary RAW CHICKS.BERLIN directed by Beate Kunath. This documentary shows eleven multifaceted portraits of international Berlin-based female music producers with a focus on live acts; women who come on stage with their equipment and present

their own songs and compositions. The musical spectrum ranges from experimental via noise-based electronic to electro-acoustic music.

Prior to the screening, the audience assisted to a short live performance by German DJ and producer Juliane Wolf who performed, for the first time on a modular synthesizer. The performance was followed by an introduction on the Malta Sound Women Network by the co-founder, Jess Rymer and a short Q&A session with Juliane.



Plattenspieler – The Vinyl Talk – 11th April 2019

The vinyl listening and talk series returned on Thursday 11th April 2019, this time with two Maltese guests – popular techno / electro DJ Junior B and electronic music producer Ed Blank. Both saluted the other original guest for the night, the DJ and video artist In†rowΣrks, who had to drop off at the last minute.



Brian and Edwin took it in turns to take out a record, play it to the audience and then talk about it. Brian evoked the times when he used to visit the shop managed by his late brother, Desmond, which also featured turntables, a mixer and vinyl records on sale. Ed talked about how he had first seen his favourite band from the

eighties, Depeche Mode, perform on television at the Sanremo Festival on 1986 and ended up buying his first vinyl record ever.

Both played vinyl from acts such as X-103, Depeche Mode, Laurent X, Dopplereffekt, Soft Cell, Anthony Rother, Herbie Hancock, Sirkkeli, Throbbing Gristle, Emmanuel Topp, Kraftwerk, Plastikman and Gary Numan.

This type of discussion was part of the Spazju Kreattiv programme and is based on the original concept developed by German author and DJ Thomas Meinecke.

Circuits Conference – 3rd, 4th May 2019

Circuits 2019 was held on the 3rd and 4th of May at Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta. This was the fourth edition of this conference.



Equipment Demonstration Area at Circuits '19

For the first time, during this edition we featured a music equipment demonstration area which was hosted by Black Box Pro.

Circuits 2019, Day One



Yuri Landman Performance / Lecture

The equipment demonstration area was open as from 16:00 hours.

The first day came to a conclusion at 20:00 hours with a Performance-Lecture by alternative instrument creator Yuri Landman, a past artists-in-residence of the Spazju Kreattiv Artists' Residency. During this activity, Yuri performed using a variety of his instruments whilst delving into

technical aspects used in the creation process.

Circuits 2019, Day Two

On the second day, the conference reached its peak with a series of discussions and representations starting at 14:00 hours with the participation of Adnan Hadziselovic, Mario Abela, Melchior Sultana, Mike Desira, Patricia Cvetkovic, Robert Babicz, The Ebbin & Flow, and Vertical Dimension.

The interact area (with live DJ's, an information desk and video kiosks) was open as from 14:00 hours and the equipment demonstration area was open as from 13:00 hours.

The conference came to an end at 20:00 hours with a concert from the groups POW Ensemble and Poèmes Électroniques.



Poemes Electroniques Performance



POW Ensemble Performance



Mario Abela (Performance / Interview)



Audience at Circuits 19

Gary Numan Android In La La Land (screening) – 22nd May 2019



EMM in Collaboration with The Richmond Foundation and Fondazzjoni Kreattivita presented the screening of 'Gary Numan Android in La La Land', a documentary directed by Steve Read & Rob Alexander.

Foundation and a short vinyl DJ set by The Chemist.

The screening was preceded by a small introductory talk on the work performed by the Richmond

Carolina Eyck – Elegies For Theremin & Voice – 23rd November 2019

EMM in collaboration with the German Maltese Circle, the Goethe Institute, Heritage Malta and Black Box Pro brought to Malta one of the world's best Theremin players, Carolina Eyck, for a performance at the Grand Salon Hall in the Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

Carolina performed music from her newest album, which was just launched on the 27th September 2019, entitled *Elegies for Theremin & Voice*. This concert celebrated the album's release and the centennial of the invention of the Theremin — an instrument played without physical contact.



The performance was held at the magnificent Grand Salon Hall which is on the first floor of the National Museum of Archaeology, Republic Street, Valletta and was preceded by a short performance by Maltese singer-songwriter Yasmin Kuymizakis better known as YEWS or Joon.



A one-hour public lecture was also held by Carolina Eyck on the morning before the concert at YMCA, Valletta.

Executive Committee

Chairman – Edwin Balzan

Secretary – Martina Camilleri

Treasurer – Owen Bezzina

Members:

Charlon Calleja

Keith Farrugia

Toni Gialanze'

Adnan Hadziselimovic

Adri Van den Berg

Advisory Board:

Neil Hales

Frank Cachia

(other members to be advised)