



NEKO3

Micro-Workshop concert
2025

Copenhagen, 11.03.2025

Dear Board Members of **Københavns Kommune**,

We are seeking financial support for our **Micro-workshop 2025 concert**.

Ever since the beginning of NEKO3 in 2017, a priority of ours has been to closely collaborate with composers and creators of art: not just commissioning works from composers, but being an active part of the creation of said works. We believe that it is of crucial importance to intimately know the people we are collaborating with, and whether our personal and artistic interests coincide - the better they do, the more meaningful and personal we can make the collaboration and the more confidently we can present it on stage. Secondly, as an ensemble that welcomes all different kinds of artistic means to express oneself, it is of crucial importance for us to keep ourselves updated on the current trends of contemporary music and art, and there is no better source to that than the young generations of composers and artists of today, the creators of tomorrow. With our years of experience in artistic collaborations, we believe we can reciprocally offer valuable input and inspiration to them. And finally, our will is to make contemporary music and art more appealing to the general public - currently it still suffers from a lack of approachableness and is often considered incomprehensible by the general public.

All of this lays the foundation of our Micro-workshop initiative. Micro-workshop consists of closely working with different composers and creators of art, providing them with the time, resources and an artistically fertile environment to experiment with their ideas. We particularly welcome embryos of ideas, fresh, yet undeveloped thoughts that only exist in the imagination of their creators - we want to be the catalysts and the guinea pigs for their experimentation, to give more concreteness to the ideas in order for the artists to be able to grasp onto them and start developing them further. Thus, the initiative consists of us being there for the entirety of the process, starting from the initial thought that we workshop together into finalizing it and presenting it on stage.

After a successful, sold-out Micro-workshop concert in December 2023, we are now applying for financial support in order to realize the next **Micro-workshop concert 2025 in Copenhagen**. It features the initial compositional ideas by the participants presented in their fully-developed form, on stage to an audience, alongside a panel discussion together with the artists and composers (wherein the floor is constantly open for audience questions), and a dinner for all the participants and the audience that offers an even more casual environment for exchange of thoughts and ideas and facilitates in further disseminating the ideas and working processes. In 2025, the concert will take place in KoncertKirken on November 21st, with the final rehearsal period together with NEKO3 and the participants in Copenhagen between 15.-20.11. The concert period is both production- and finance-wise the heaviest part of the whole Micro-workshop production, which is why we feel that it requires particular attention in terms of fund-raising.

We believe this initiative is a valuable asset for both ourselves, for the artists we want to work with, for all the different audiences we want to touch with our work, and for the Copenhagenese contemporary music and art scene as a whole.



Lorenzo Colombo

Musician, member of the board
NEKO3

NEKO3 is a Copenhagen-based experimental group consisting of three members: pianist/ performer Fei Nie and two percussionists/performers Lorenzo Colombo and Kalle Hakosalo.

The ensemble is working towards the creation of a new musical language and repertoire, building a narrative and concept for each concert and aiming to provide unique experiences for its audiences. NEKO3 is continuously collaborating with composers and other creators of art, focusing on the interplay between images, electronics, videos, lights, and seeking to integrate music, visual art, installations, body performance and other forms of art into one conceptual whole.

Since its formation in 2017 NEKO3 has performed at festivals such as Festival Internacional de la Imagen, Bogota (CO), SONICA Glasgow (GB), cresc... Biennale (DE), Time Of Music (FI), Rondò (IT), MINU festival (DK), Dark Music Days (IS), PlayTime Festival (CH), Kammer Klang (UK), Copenhagen Light Festival (DK), Klang Festival (DK), Unerhörte Musik (DE), GAS Festival (SE), Sound of Stockholm (SE) and Spor Festival (DK). Moreover, they have been featured as soloists with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and the Aarhus Sinfonietta.

They have given workshops and presentations at ie. Stanford University (USA), UCSD San Diego (USA), the Royal Danish Academy of Music (DK), Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (DE) and Kungliga Musikhögskolan (SE).

The ensemble recorded different EPs and released their first full length album "Angel Death Traps" in collaboration with Alexander Schubert in 2024.

In 2022 NEKO3 was awarded the prestigious Danish Music Critics' Artist Award. (Musikanmelderingens Kunstnerpriser). Moreover, the ensemble was chosen for the Danish State's Art Foundation's (Statens Kunstfond) Den Unge Kunstneriske Elite -career program for years 2023-24.

NEKO3 Micro-Workshop 2023 (report from past editions)



Micro-Workshop is a format conceived and developed by NEKO3. The basic idea is to create a continuous exchange between the ensemble and the new generations of artists and creative minds of our time. The 2023 edition saw NEKO3 collaborating with 4 artists with different profiles. One of the fundamental ideas of Micro-Workshop is to find artistic “matches” and create long-term collaborations. Since the beginning of Micro-Workshops in 2021, we have further collaborated with a handful of the participants and developed larger productions that will be presented in the future.

We started by selecting 4 groups of composers and artists following an open call with more than 30 applications. The chosen participants were invited to Copenhagen for a workshop where we worked together on an embryonic idea which was then developed during the year to be performed at a final concert. Moreover, the workshops were documented to create portraits and introductions of the composers. The final short documents, shared on YouTube and different social media platforms, had the intention of bringing the audience closer to the artists and providing them with more intimate, behind-the-scenes -information leading up to the concert. This aspect was of fundamental importance to us in our aim of making contemporary art more accessible to the general public.

Micro-Workshop DOC#1: Nanna Lysdahl Søgaard & Pernille Kaufmann

<https://youtu.be/uhpm1rRD6RY>

Micro-Workshop DOC#2 : SLIME

<https://youtu.be/8HbCmKtFGUc>

Micro-Workshop DOC#3 : Tianyu Zou

<https://youtu.be/j8xUHI7fZ2s>

Micro-Workshop DOC#4 : Fabio Machiavelli

https://youtu.be/_yDbAWmau-Q

The Micro-Workshop concert in KoncertKirken on 8. December 2023 was a real success. The hall was full and the audience enjoyed the direction of the concert, which touched on very different topics ranging from film-making to DIY instrument-making to immersion in a virtual reality.

Micro-Workshop concert documentation: NEKO3 x ONLY SLIME : <https://youtu.be/qADaw-CIDdA>

Micro-Workshop concert documentation: NEKO3 x TIANYU ZOU: <https://youtu.be/vBccWHqQIR8>



The concert ended with a casual panel discussion, where the audience had the opportunity to ask questions to the composers, followed by a dinner where composers, artists and audience had the chance to mingle freely, get to know each other and discuss.

The Micro-Workshops successfully generated a lot of artistic and cultural buzz by bringing international artists to Copenhagen, breaking down the distance between the audience and contemporary music and creating a great sense of community around a creative process, and really strengthened our belief towards the functionality of this format. With Micro-Workshops and the regular flow of fresh artistic input, we believe we can simultaneously benefit ourselves and help the local scene grow over time.

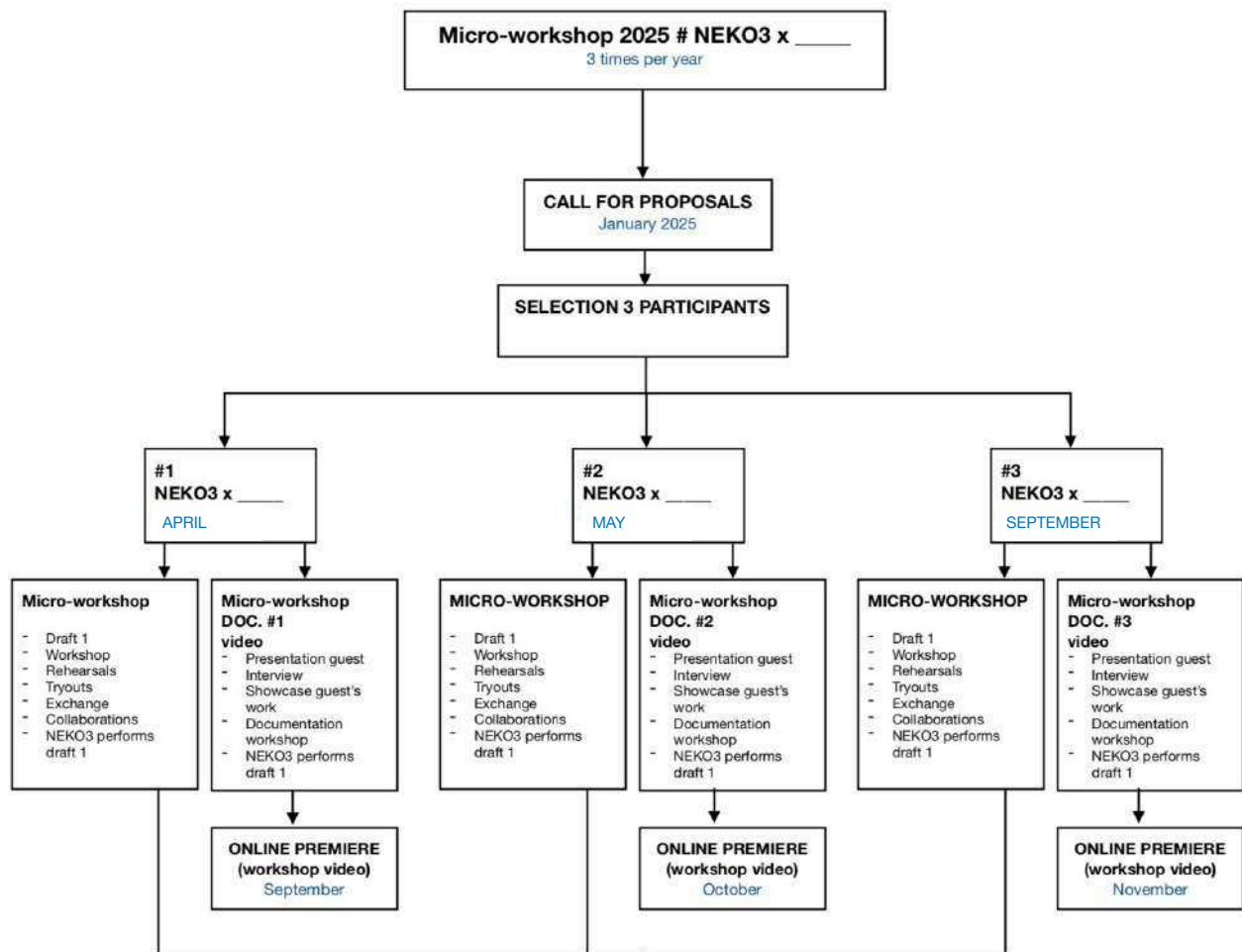
DOCUMENTATION: past Micro-Workshop editions

- Micro-Workshop 2022 #1 https://youtu.be/EYmL_-ygfc?t=4690
- Micro-Workshop 2022 #2 <https://youtu.be/qx05GNVO1HU?t=6150>
- Micro-Workshop 2022 #3 <https://youtu.be/tQ0VVNxKrhW?t=6885>
- Micro-Workshop 2022 #4 <https://youtu.be/1ry9sil6hPc?t=5852>
- Micro-Workshop 2022 #5 <https://youtu.be/3qWTmVxT0fo?t=5823>

QUOTES: past Micro-Workshop participants

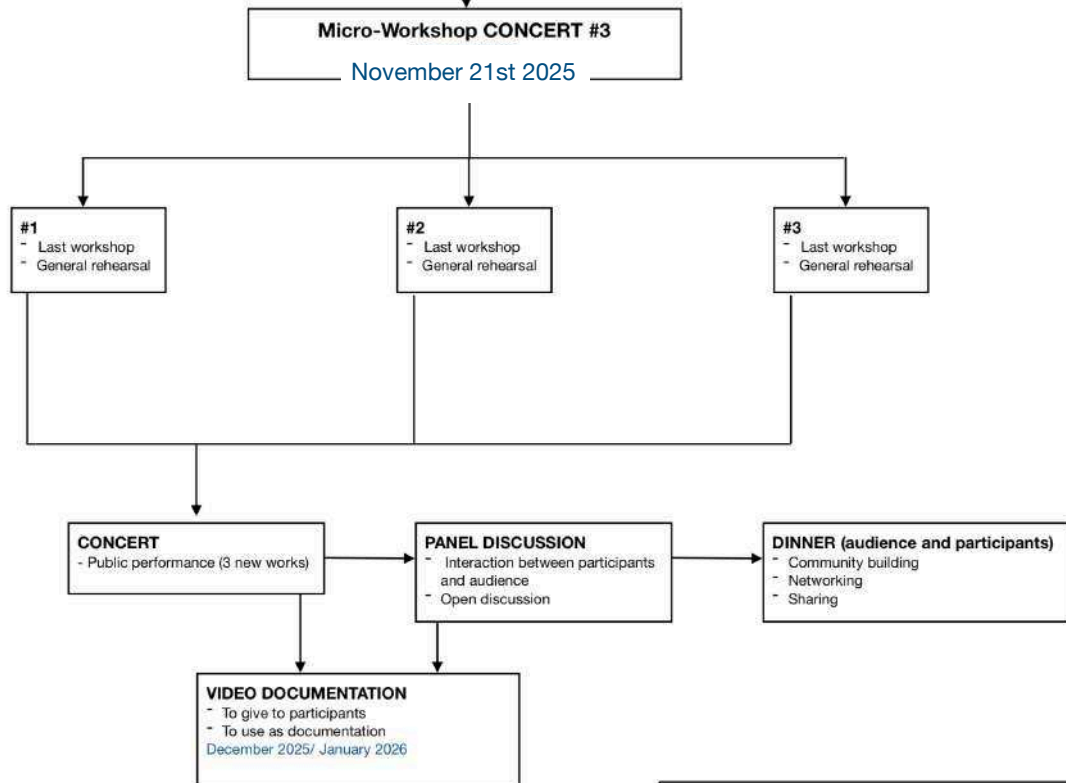
"The micro workshop: Extremely inspiring, intense (in the best sense) and uplifting experience and format! We were overwhelmed and honored by the number of facilities, people, time and dedication put into those days. It has been really motivating to have that experience and meeting as the starting point of the process and development of the piece - both creatively and personally - because it gave us a lot of ideas and inspiration to work with in the development of the piece afterwards.... Really good and inspiring creative ping-pong throughout the entire process: You were really engaged and dedicated in the development of the piece, and really good at taking our ideas and build on them as well as bringing your own ideas into the piece. We therefore really feel that the process and the end result was a collaboration in its true meaning (and not just a buzz word like it sometimes can become).... It has been fun, warm and inspiring working with you not only professionally and artistically but also personally!"

-Nanna Sogaard & Pernille Kaufmann, MWKSP 2023 participants



Participants develop their draft 1 into a complete work

Funded part of the project!



MICRO-WORKSHOP OUTCOME

- 3 commissions
- 3 Micro-workshop DOC. with online premiere
- 1 concert with 3 new world premieres

"Our collaboration with NEKO3 has been a truly eye-opening experience. Their earnestness, dedication, willingness to experiment and their around-the-clock responsiveness to last-minute changes, requests or ideas is inspiring, rare and incredibly invigorating to work with as a collaborator and partner. Neko3 is characterized not only by 3 distinct and characteristic musicians, whose professionalism and extremely high skill as individual pervades everything they do, but also as a group, they radiate openness, warmth, inclusiveness and a willingness to explore new realms and new formats in the intersection between cutting-edge contemporary music, bold staging and implementation of technology and new ideas in their work. This Micro-Workshop was characterized by four extremely different pieces, with widely contrasting ideas, aesthetics, working processes and results. NEKO3 has given each piece their full attention and dedication, and the result is an evening that we think not only inspires generations of artists and musicians to come, but also invigorates the established scene with a fresh, open and energetic approach that resonates with a contemporaneity of inclusiveness and dialogue. We are extremely excited about our upcoming projects and collaborations with NEKO3 that have emerged out of this first Micro-Workshop, and are looking forward to hopefully many years of musical adventures and endeavors together."

-Tobi Pfeil // ONLY SLIME, MWKSP 2023 participant

NEKO.Lab

The concept of “NEKO.Lab” stems from NEKO3’s foundational interest to create and foster a community of young composers, artists and musicians on one hand, and of audiences in- and outside of the modern art (music) on the other, that can be used as a meeting point for meaningful discussions and cross-artistic sharing. One of the main goals for the 2025-26 period, NEKO3 wants to keep developing the community in Copenhagen and abroad, particularly through its *Micro-Workshop* (incl. *Micro-Workshop on tour*) initiatives, and providing everyone in the community with the chance to encounter different cultures, artistic models and traditions, and widen their horizons.

Micro-Workshop 2025

Micro-Workshop is an initiative conceived by NEKO3. It aims to promote new generations of composers, sound and multimedia artists, performers, individual musicians, actors, dancers, instrument designers, or any other creators regardless of their discipline, sex, gender, nationality or social background. Micro-Workshop is a flexible, versatile model of collaboration with the most interesting creative minds of our time. It provides a safe space of intellectual exchange both for the artists involved and the general public.

The purpose of Micro-Workshops is manifold. On one hand, it is a showcase for its participants, who have the opportunity to freely express their artistic ideas, and a possibility to spend a considerable amount of time working on a creative idea with musicians / performers. On the other, it is a way to offer the public an insight into the present state of art and music in general. Through video-documentation it seeks to create innovative content that attracts new audiences to the world of new music and art, that is still fairly difficult to approach and understand by the general public; and to create an archive of inspiration for future generations. Finally, the initiative intends to establish a cosmopolitan artistic community, where the continuous contact between national and international artists can create a basis for new collaborations and relationships.

I Micro-Workshop

1.1 Micro-Workshop

- Every two years (2023-25...) NEKO3 hosts an open call for proposals, inviting 3 young composers / artists to collaboratively develop ideas from embryos into complete works of art. The proposed medium is free - it can be music, installation, video, performance or anything else
- Each of the selected participants meets the ensemble in an intense, in-person workshop to get to know one another and collectively work on their individual, raw ideas, in a creatively fertile space
- The physical workshops are followed by a remote work period, where the creators can develop the piece further with the inspiration and information received during the workshops. Moreover, a second workshop period will be arranged with each of the composers remotely, wherein we exchange information digitally. Finally, the artists are invited back to Copenhagen, where NEKO3 presents the developed ideas to live audience in a concert (aka. Micro-Workshop Concert) at the end of the year
- To facilitate the participation of young creators, all their expenses regarding participation (travels, lodging) will be covered, and a small fee provided to them

1.2 Micro-Workshop DOC.

- One of the key aspects of the initiative is to properly document the workshops. Each of them will be condensed and produced into a short documentary, which will then be distributed on different online platforms. Filmmaker Niklas Ottander will be in charge of the artistic direction of the documentaries
- Each episode will be individually crafted for and with each participant and feature introductions, work presentations, discussions, and documentation of the workshop processes
- The purpose of this documentation is to
 - a) create innovative content to attract national and international audiences and introduce them to contemporary music

- b) create an archive for future generations to tap into and be inspired by
- c) simultaneously act as teasers and introductions to the works that the audience will be hearing at the end-of-the-year concert

1.3 Micro-Workshop concert

- The annual concerts aim to foster the growth of a community. Taking place at the end of each year, the first performances of the new developed ideas that were initially conceived during the workshops will be heard. Apart from the concert, the evening features a casual dinner for all participants and audience to enjoy and freely converse together; and a panel discussion digging in to the composers' individual creative processes, partially evoked by active participation of the audience
- We have observed that contemporary music and art can appear difficult to approach by audiences not used to its non-mainstream ways of expression. The Micro-Workshop DOC. episodes both work to promote the upcoming concert, to help the audience to understand the creative and performing processes, and to strengthen the general feeling of community

Timeline

Micro-Workshop #1 : April 2025
Micro-Workshop #2 : May 2025
Micro-Workshop #3 : September 2025
Micro-Workshop DOC. #1 September 2025
Micro-Workshop DOC. #2 October 2025
Micro-Workshop DOC. #3 November 2025

Micro-Workshop final period of workshops and rehearsals (supported by Københavns Kommune)

Micro-Workshop concert : 21 November 2025 supported by Københavns Kommune)

Final documentation of the finished works: 1 December 2025

(we are seeking support only for the expenses related to the last phase of the project starting November 2025!)

Selected participants 2025:

1) Severin Dornier

Website: severindornier.com

Severin is a composer and sound artist, born in Munich and currently based in Bern (CH) and Paris (FR). Beyond music, he enjoys building things by hand, coding, reading obscure historical facts, and spending time in nature. His recent works - both as installations and stage performances - have explored themes of robotics and artificial life, melting alpine glaciers, and romanticism.

The project for the Micro-Workshop 2025 investigates how light waves can be transformed into sound waves. In this work, performers interact with a constellation of small, satellite-like musical objects suspended within a web of laser beams spanning the space. We also learn about the history and potential future of laser communication in space.

LINK TO FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UzYgmuq43cMQxeX8JrJ6Tt2MmUaXZ6La/view?usp=sharing>

2) Carmen Kleykens Vidal

Website: www.carmenkleykens.com

Carmen Kleykens Vidal (1998* Païs Valencià) is a multimedia artist, post-composer, researcher, and performer from Gandia based in Hamburg, Germany.

Carmen directs and creates projects with different collaborators, building multimedia projects in experimental setups and extensions. She is researching "Fluid Virtual identities", and the impact of XR technology on feminist awareness inside her doctoral studies with Prof. Alexander Schubert in HFMT, Hamburg.

Their work explores XR technology and 3D audio within Queer-feminist and post-human aesthetics, utilising topics such as virtuality, representation, self-exploration, and scientific theories as the main sources of digital action and political messages.

Micro-Workshop Project Overview:

Gem*Dat is a multimedia performance for Neko3 as part of the 2025 Micro-Workshops. Created during 2025, the piece explores a 3D post-human universe where three gems, projected on different screens, transform into avatars during the piece through the intervention of the performers. Specifically, these "avatars/gems" are controlled in real-time by the movements of the performers' hands and arms.

Using motion-tracking technology (with VR or without, depending of the technical possibilities), the base idea is to individually and collectively manipulate various parameters of sound, lights, and visuals, making the entire experience fully interactive. If it's possible during the time of the residency, the transformation of the Gem* will be done with live AI video if I find a way to make it more sustainable.

LINK TO FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lpAFARoX1uebgXCLsYjLnkl3VXYJsYR5/view?usp=sharing>

3) Tuce Alba x Maf

<https://tucealba.com/>

<https://www.mafisunavailable.com/>

Tuce Alba (1996, Turkiye) is an architect, musician, and sound artist living in Istanbul/Berlin. She uses various elements and techniques to build performative spatio-temporal experiences and audio-visual narratives through sound. Her works explore the textural details created by the relationship of sound and space, improvised spatial compositional structures based time. As an experienced “ney” player, she also conducts acoustic research on manipulating the limitations of traditional instruments.

MAF - the concept of Mental Alchemic Formations - created by the multi-genre artist, Chris McWayne, in which one creates from the energy, both positive and negative, that exists within and outside of one's self. Through the power of the mind, create growth from pain and gold from lead. This is a process of transformation of the self, derived from the principles of alchemy, Hermeticism, and Zen practice. This concept is the primary vehicle for artistic explorations and, as such, serves as the name of the artist. Each project becomes a new exploration into self-discovery and is laid as a new foundation for future structures. The central tenet of the practice is that nothing remains static, everything exists within flow and rhythm. For over 15 years, MAF has developed a multidisciplinary practice spanning hip-hop, electronic music, sound design, composition, installation, sonic art, acting, curation, movement arts, and DJing. This journey has led to many valuable collaborations and the creation of projects that have taken on a life of their own. MAF played an integral role in the foundation of The Nouveau Sud Project, a physical theater group, as well as, the Orbit and AFTA party series.

LINK TO FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19giyUMCougQ82t5Vv5Q4CR60v3P71rfl/view?usp=drive_link

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