

Kari Ikonen "Impressions, Improvisations and Compositions"



Kari Ikonen's new Kandinsky-inspired solo piano project "Impressions, Improvisations and Compositions" will be released on CD & LP in April 2020 by German label Ozella Music. Listen here: <https://soundcloud.com/kari-ikonen/sets/impressions-improvisations/s-xB3lj>

A bunch of preparations and special techniques are used, most notably the revolutionary **Maqiano** - Ikonen's new creation, a device that allows him to play the *Maqamat* (≈Arabic scales) and other micro-intervals on grand piano !!! Have a look: www.maqiano.com For the last 20 years Ikonen has been into Arabic music, and now finally he's able to use the maqams in his music, without having to call the piano tuner after each tune!

N.B: *Maqiano* and other Ikonen's special techniques are very carefully designed and tested on hundreds of grand pianos around the world, and will never cause damage to the piano.

"Wassily Kandinsky, one of my favorite painters, divided his paintings in three categories: impressions, improvisations and compositions. "Improvisations" were spontaneous expressions of an internal mood or feeling, directly from the artist's soul. "Impressions" were improvisations as well, but with external influences, such as music or the nature. "Compositions" were also expressions of inner visions, but more consciously designed ... What a perfect analogy with my music! Some of the pieces in my solo repertoire are impressions, inspired by a scale/maqam, a painting or a story. Some pieces are "pure" improvisations and some are written compositions."

The pianist-moogist-composer **Kari Ikonen** (b.1973) is currently active also with his trio, with *Orchestra Nazionale della Luna*, *Quartet Ajaton* and *Trio Toffa* - and different projects with Louis Sclavis, Bob Moses, Tony Malaby, Jeff Denson, Kalle Kalima and Vincent Courtois. He has won several international awards for his compositions, and in 2013 he got the Yrjö Award as the Finnish Jazz Musician of the Year.

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