

Monheim Triennale II

The Sound | The Prequel | The Festival

Review of *The Prequel* and Preview of *The Festival 2025*

7/11/2024

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

At a press reception at the festival hotel in Monheim am Rhein on Saturday, July 6, 2024, Mayor Daniel Zimmermann and artistic director Reiner Michalke gave a brief review of *The Prequel* 2024 and a first outlook on *The Festival* 2025 of the *Monheim Triennale*.

Michalke explained that *The Prequel* is not only about introducing the audience to the main artists of the upcoming festival, but also about creating a sense of community among the musicians and a connection to the city. The fact that this ultimately flows into the music was evident to everyone involved in an inimitable way over the course of the three days. Zimmermann also praised the importance of the *Monheim Triennale* for Monheim's musical life and cultural education.



Shannon Barnett on the festival boat © Niclas Weber for *Monheim Triennale*

The opening of *The Prequel* took place on July 4 in the packed hall of the festival boat MS Rheinfantasie with “Round Robin”, during which the Signature Artists introduced themselves to the audience in changing formations.

For the first time this year, the Marienkapelle was used as an additional venue in the immediate vicinity of the festival boat, where Darius Jones, Brighde Chaimbeul, Peter Evans and yuniya edikwon performed acclaimed solos.

A total of 30 concerts, workshops and artist talks took place over three days on the festival boat, in the chapel Marienkapelle, in the off-space Zum goldenen Hans, in the pub Spielmann and – as always – in the cultural center Sojus 7.



yuniya edi kwon, chapel Marienkapelle © Niclas Weber for *Monheim Triennale*

The 16 Signature Artists came from Australia, Germany, Georgia/The Netherlands, Great Britain, USA, Japan, Palestine, and Iran, among other countries. They could be experienced daily on stage in changing constellations, workshops and artist talks.

Artists on the Monheim Triennale: Oren Ambarchi

“What a wonderful weekend in Monheim, meeting with many artists I was unfamiliar with until now, exchanging ideas, making music together and really connecting as people. Looking forward to 2025!”

Anushka Chkeidze

“*The Prequel* was an incredible experience for me. It was a continuous thought about music, and I had the chance to think about nothing but playing for three whole days! I always thought I was a good listener, but during *The Prequel*, on stage, not in the audience. It was really different.”

Heiner Goebbels

“*The Prequel* is a super entertaining format worth imitating: spontaneous improvisations by excellent musicians for only 20 minutes each. Always surprising, always inspiring - for audiences as well as for the performers themselves. Thank you, I loved it.”



Heiner Goebbels and Ganavya Doraiswamy, festival boat © Niclas Weber for *Monheim Triennale*

In addition to the international artists, about 75 musicians and students from Monheim were involved throughout the duration of *The Prequel*. On the opening day, a group of Monheim musicians played together with Peter Evans in an intensively prepared workshop ensemble. Anushka Chkheidze, Rojin Sharafi and Ludwig Wandinger worked with the “Musikmaschine” in Sojus 7, where some of the musicians also engaged in a lively exchange with students from the Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium in an Early Bird Session.

On the second day, the middle school choir of the grammar school performed with Julia Ulehla, Darius Jones and Shahzad Ismaily. Warm-up sessions were

held at the Spielmann pub and the Sprachbar in preparation for *The Prequel*.



Ludwig Wandinger and the "Musikmaschine" in Sojus 7 © Niclas Weber for *Monheim Triennale*

In preparation for *The Festival* 2025, the orchestra class of the OHG with yuniya edi kwon and Anushka Chkheidze rehearsed with the choir "Bunter Chor" during this festival week. As in previous years, local collaborations were coordinated by Artist in Residence Achim Tang.

Seminars from the Institute for Pop Music at the Folkwang Universität der Künste and the Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf visited *The Prequel* and exchanged ideas with the musicians, the audience and the *Monheim Triennale* team.

The Prequel ended on Saturday, July 6, with a packed program, including a spontaneous Early Bird Session, solos by Peter Evans, yuniya edi kwon and Terre Thaemlitz, artist talks, duos by Heiner Goebbels & Ganavya Doraiswamy and Oren Ambarchi & Muqata'a, a grand finale and an

atmospheric closing party in the Panorama Lounge of the festival boat.



Mika Kaurismäki on the deck of the festival boat © Niclas Weber for *Monheim Triennale*

Preview:

After the two editions *The Sound* 2023 and *The Prequel* 2024, *The Festival* will follow next year from July 2 to 6, 2025 as the conclusion of the *Monheim Triennale II*. The 16 Signature Artists will then present their wish projects, which they are developing especially for the *Monheim Triennale*, with their dream cast.

The documentary film about *The Prequel* by Finnish filmmaker Mika Kaurismäki will also be shown on ARTE next year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best regards

Kathrin Jentjens

Head of Communications and Co-Curator *The Sound* 2023

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Further information and [tickets](#) for The Prequel at
www.monheim-triennale.de.



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