

Charlotte Hug is a Swiss-born performer (voice & viola), composer, improviser, and visual artist. Her innovative musical-visual solo performances in distinctive locations and her interdisciplinary work have created an international furor. She sang and played in the Rhone Glacier, in the rising waters of the Atlantic Ocean in Ireland, and in the Brazilian jungle, Mata Atlântica, etc. For her artistic work, she often chooses powerful places in nature that are also fragile or threatened with extinction.

Having completed her studies in Classical Music and Fine Arts, she won various awards, including artist residences in London, Paris, Berlin, Johannesburg, and Shanghai. She was a fellow artist at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, nominated for the Classic:Next - Innovation Award, «artiste étoile» at the world-renowned Lucerne Festival, and winner of the Swiss Music Prize 2025.

As a vocalist, she sings over four octaves, from undertones to the highest falsetto. With vibrating glottal beats, multi-phonics, and articulations close to speech, she oscillates between the human voice and hybrid siren songs. Hug is constantly breaking new ground with her instrument. With the soft-bow technique along with other innovations, she has reinvented the viola. Her specialty is a blend of viola and vocals, resulting in a unique tonal language. Hug has recorded an extensive discography with artists including duos with Elliott Sharp, Lucas Niggli, trios with Maggie Nicols and Caroline Kraabel or Lisa Ullén and Nina de Heney, and several albums with the improvising London Stellari String Quartet (Philipp Wachsmann, Marcio Mattos & John Edwards) etc., Son-Icon Music for choir and orchestra, and four solo albums on international labels. A significant influence and inspiration came from the long-standing participation of the London Improvisers Orchestra. Hug develops open concepts for the LIO and other improvisers' Orchestras (STYO Graz, KIO Krakow, the SPIO São Paulo etc.)

With Son-Icons (Visual-Music), Spatial-Scores, and Live-Scoring with Temporary-Son-Icons, she created a new genre of transdisciplinary music and art. Her Intermedia-Compositions are played by international ensembles. (Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, Ensemble SuperMusique Montréal, Via-Nova Choir Munich, Lucerne Festival Academy, Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra, the Dance Company FATC Johannesburg etc.). In addition to exhibitions in galleries and museums, she is fully active as a performer, improviser, soloist, composer, and conductor of her works at major festivals in Europe, North America, Latin America, Canada, Russia, South Africa, and China.

Hug is a professor of improvisation, musical-scenic performance, and creation in interdisciplinary contexts at the Lucerne University of Applied Science and Arts/Music and head of the international postgraduate studies program Creation & Scenario in Music at the Zurich University of the Arts. www.charlottehug.com (less than 3000 characters with spaces)

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