



**Shackle** is Anne LaBerge on flute and electronics and Deckard on laptop-instrument. Their aim is to explicitly and subtly exploit shackling in both concept and material.

shackle |' sh akəl|

1. used in reference to something that restrains or impedes.
  2. a metal link, typically U-shaped, closed by a bolt, used to secure a chain or rope to something.
- Old English of Germanic origin; related to Dutch schakel 'link, coupling'.

This extraordinarily inventive duo has a way of making music all their own. At the heart of their duo is a self-designed, cutting-edge digital cueing system which operates as a sometimes visible third member. Both prodding and reactive, the Shackle system suggests musical directions and textures to these two highly gifted performers, opening up a fascinating array of sonic choices for La Berge and Deckard to play with and against.

Improvisation and structure coincide effortlessly in Shackle's music. Working with a computerized communication system that proposes various compositional elements to each player, they can then choose whether or not to cooperate with the proposed material. Proposals involve aspects of restriction, either in sound material, timing, dynamics or other musical parameters.

Shackle's performances explode the line between improvisation without borders and tightly controlled forms that are both playful and daring. With uncanny transitions that turn on a dime and long, spun-out tapestries of sound, Shackle's music works on two levels at once: full of delightful discoveries that can happen in the blink of an eye, La Berge and Deckard savor the possibilities that those discoveries offer up.

Shackle is online at <http://shackle.eu/>.

## Biographies

**Anne LaBerge** <http://www.annelaberge.com/>

Anne La Berge's career as flutist/improviser/composer stretches across international and stylistic boundaries. Her performances bring together the elements on which her international reputation is based: a ferocious and far-reaching virtuosity, a penchant for improvising delicately spun microtonal textures and melodies, and her wholly unique array of powerfully percussive flute effects, all combined with electronic processing. Many of her compositions involve her own participation, though she has produced works intended solely for other performers, usually involving guided improvisation and text. In addition to creating her own work she regularly performs in other artists' projects in a range of settings from modern chamber music to improvised electronic music.

La Berge can be heard on the Shackle, New World, Largo, Artifact, Etcetera, Hat Art, Frog Peak, Einstein, X-OR, Unsounds, Canal Street, Rambo, esc.rec., Intackt and Data labels which include recordings as a soloist and with Robert van Heumen, Ensemble Modern, United Noise Toys, Fonville/La Berge duo, Rasp/Hasp, Bievre/La Berge duo, Apricot My Lady, Big Zoom and the Corkestra.

Her music is published by Frog Peak Music (US) and by Donemus (NL). She is the co-director, with her husband David Dramm, of the VOLSAP Foundation that supports projects for composed and improvised music.

**Deckard** <http://west28.nl/>

Deckard is a composer and improvising musician using an extended laptop-instrument to perform highly immersive and hyper-dynamic electro-acoustic music. As a musician, live sampling is his main tool. With a joystick and other tactile controllers, live sampled source sounds are gesturally manipulated and reworked within open ended narratives. Deckard is continuously researching new strategies for live sampling and looking for the perfect balance between free improvisation and structured music. The laptop is used in an instrumental, tactile way, connecting action to sound like any acoustic instrument, and is used live as well as in the studio to generate sonic material for electro-acoustic compositions. Deckard is performing regularly with Shackle (with electro-flutist Anne LaBerge).

Recent electro-acoustic works include the compositions First Law of Kipple, Tubes in Chains, Steenklank and MDFreeze . First Law of Kipple is build around an extreme adaptation of Gorecki's Miserere and a library of recordings in various churches processed using the family tree concept. Tubes in Chains is the next step in Shackle's research project into restriction and structure in electro-acoustic improvisation. Both FLoK and Tubes premiered at Orgelpark in 2013. Steenklank is a soundwalk in collaboration with theater maker Anne Rooschüz using architecture as the score. MDFreeze is an algorithmic composition for 8 speakers dealing with the perception of music in time.

Deckard was awarded a composition stipend from the Performing Arts Fund NL for 2013/2014.

## **Shackle technical requirements**

- PA with minimum 2 stereo input and subwoofer - the PA is preferably setup behind us so we can hear what the audience hears - if this is not possible: 2 good quality monitors setup behind us facing the audience
- 4 XLR cables from our audio devices to the PA
- 2 small tables
- 1 microphone boom stand
- 1 heavy duty music stand to be used as table
- electricity and a powerstrip with a minimum of 2 connections