

Phillips Exeter Academy  
Music Department  
Presents

Rhéggos

faculty recital

electro-acoustic | minimalism

when:  
oct 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm

where:  
"the bowld"  
29Tan Ln Exeter NH

Eric Claxton  
compositions / keyboards / fx

Mike Effenberger  
keyboards / fx

## Introduction

Rhegos, the name of this project, is an Ancient Greek word meaning rug or blanket and was personally discovered in connection with the shrub *ermophila rhegos*. Deeply interested in writing, improvising, and presenting music that envelops the listener and functions as part of their environment, blanket seemed like an appropriate connection to establish. With texture and pattern in mind, compositionally, the connection between the sonic experience of this music and the visual experiences found in nature seemed important to establish. I have always been struck by the vastness of nature on one hand and the textures that arise from multitudes of very small entities, like pine needles or the membranes of moss. This music starts to reflect those inspirations.

There are a handful of composers and artists worth mentioning who have inspired this side of my own work. I think Aphex Twin, J Dilla and Flying Lotus showed me the breadth and depth of what is possible as a producer and got me really interested in sound design. I was lucky to have peers and one fantastic teacher at UNH who helped me see some connections between contemporary electronic/hip-hop producers and minimalist composers like Steve Reich and Philip Glass. Across the last 15 years, I have spent a fair amount of time digging into those two composers. Their music taught me a lot about patience- as a composer and listener. Two of the most recent artists of interest for me would be producer/composer Brian Eno and electronic/ambient duo Boards of Canada.

I'd like to thank my friend and collaborator for this show, Mike Effenberger (more on him below). Not only has Mike been a supportive colleague/peer he has also been an important source of inspiration and influence on me as an artist for the past 15+ years. We've spent a lot of time making and listening to music with one another and I continue to learn a lot from each experience.

# **Program**

*(subject to slight changes due to time constraints and the nature of improvisation)*

Improvisation no.1

Finding Moments- (2023) E. Klaxton

Improvisation no.2

Rigidly Defined Areas of Doubt and Uncertainty- (2017)  
E. Klaxton

Improvisation no.3

Stereoscopic- (2019) E. Klaxton

Improvisation no. 4

Dreamland- (2016) E. Klaxton

## The Musicians



**Mike Effenberger** is a recording and performing artist who has been living in the NH Seacoast since 2007. He received the Young Beacon in Jazz award from New School University in New York City, from which he graduated in 2005. Mike has curated an unmistakably individual voice that draws on gospel, minimalism, jazz, and 20th century music. He plays throughout New England with a variety of bands including fiveighthirteen, The Soggy Po Boys, Jazzputin and the Jug Skunks, the secular roots and gospel choir Rock My Soul, OURBIGBAND, Sad Bastards / Loose Standards, and Dan Blakeslee. He leads Weird Turn Pro, which plays his original music. When not at a piano bench, he can typically be found in the woods.



**Eric Klaxton** is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and educator residing in Southern Maine. Working as a freelance saxophonist, clarinetist and pianist, he has played with and arranged for a substantial number of ensembles including the Soggy Po Boys, Sojoy, Rhegos and OurBigBand. In addition to his work with various collective ensembles, Eric writes and arranges original works for various groups of his own, imbued with traditions from jazz, rock, folk, and electronic music. When he isn't performing or teaching, Klaxton is an active producer and studio engineer.



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