

# Michael Schiefel

## Full Biography

Michael Schiefel is a vocalist, composer, improviser and educator based in Berlin. His work focuses on the human voice and its possibilities: as melody, language, sound, rhythm, texture and electronic material. He moves between jazz, contemporary music, song, improvisation and interdisciplinary projects, developing a personal vocal language that is clear, playful and experimental.

As a solo performer, Schiefel combines voice, live looping and real-time processing. He builds music from vocal layers created live on stage: grooves, counterpoint, soundscapes, fragile songs and spontaneous forms. This approach has shaped a series of solo recordings, including *The Invisible Loop*, *I Don't Belong*, *Gay, Don't Touch My Animals* and *My Home Is My Tent*.

Alongside his solo work, Schiefel has been part of numerous ensembles and collaborative projects. His artistic work includes long-standing projects such as *Platypus Trio*, *Thärichens Tentett* and *Wood&Steel Trio*, as well as collaborations with artists including David Friedman, Cathy Milliken and Samson Young. His recordings have appeared on labels such as Traumton, ACT, BMC Records, Laika, Double Moon and others.

Schiefel's work has taken him to festivals, concert halls and project spaces across Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa, Australia and the Middle East. His artistic practice also extends beyond the concert stage into installations, participatory formats and music-theatre contexts. He has contributed to international projects including collaborations with Samson Young, sound installations such as *Füg / Fuge* and *Sound Shuttle*, and educational and participatory projects with institutions and ensembles in different parts of the world.

He studied Vocal Jazz and Music Education at the University of the Arts in Berlin, where his teachers included David Friedman, Jerry Granelli and Lauren Newton. After many years as Professor of Vocal Jazz and Vocal Improvisation at the Franz Liszt University of Music in Weimar, he is now Professor of Jazz Voice at the [Jazz Institute Berlin](#). His teaching is closely connected to his artistic practice, with a focus on individuality, sound, interaction, improvisation and creative process.

Schiefel is also the co-developer of [MikeLoop](#), an iPad app for vocal looping, live performance, improvisation and music education. The app grew out of his long-standing work with voice, electronics and real-time composition, and reflects his interest in making technology playable, intuitive and musically responsive.