



Other Minds Presents
13TH OTHER MINDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Annual new music festival includes three world premieres and U.S. premiere of late work by John Cage

Thursday-Friday-Saturday, March 6-7-8, 2008
7pm Panel Discussions • 8pm Concerts
Kanbar Hall, Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
3200 California Street, San Francisco

San Francisco, CA (January 22, 2008) – The **13th Other Minds Music Festival** (OM 13) brings together nine of the most innovative and unconventional composers from around the world for concerts and artist talks. The festival, curated by Other Minds Executive and Artistic Director Charles Amirkhanian, continues an annual tradition of presenting the most creative voices from across the musical spectrum. The 13th Other Minds Music Festival presents concerts on Thursday, March 6; Friday, March 7; and Saturday, March 8, 2008, at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco's Kanbar Hall, 3200 California Street (at Presidio Ave.), San Francisco. Concerts begin at 8pm; panel discussions with composers and performers, hosted by Charles Amirkhanian, precede each concert at 7pm. For detailed festival information visit www.otherminds.org.

Single-concert tickets are \$25–\$35 (\$25 student; \$31 JCCSF members; \$35 general). Festival passes for all three concerts are \$65–\$79 (\$65 student; \$79 general and JCCSF members; not available online). Youth ages 17 and under (with valid ID) will be admitted free of charge on the day of the concert, pending available seating. For advance tickets, call the JCCSF Box Office at (415) 292-1233 or purchase online at www.jccsf.org/arts or www.otherminds.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person or by mail from the JCCSF Box Office, 3200 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. (**Discount Tickets: 20% off single concert tickets and festival passes purchased through February 4, 2008; use discount code "omjan")

The **13th Other Minds Music Festival**, presented by Other Minds in association with the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and the Eugene and Elinor Friend Center for the Arts of the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF), includes three world premieres commissioned by Other Minds, and the American premiere of *One¹³* by legendary experimentalist John Cage, composed in collaboration with OM 13 guest artist Michael Bach. The full roster of composers invited for OM 13 includes Michael Bach (Germany), Dan Becker (USA), Elena Kats-Chernin (Uzbekistan/Australia), Keeril Makan (USA), Åke Parmerud (Sweden), Dieter Schnebel (Germany), Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith (USA), Morton Subotnick (USA), and Frances-Marie Uitti (USA/Netherlands). The festival begins with four days of private retreat for guest composers at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and continues with concerts and panel discussions at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco.

About Other Minds

Other Minds, a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in San Francisco, is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms. Projects include the annual Other Minds Music Festival, Other Minds Records, Other Minds New Music Séance Concerts, "Music From Other Minds" on KALW 91.7-FM, and the History of New Music Preservation Project, making content from the Other Minds Archive available for free on the web at radiOM.org.

OTHER MINDS 13: Thursday, March 6, 2008 **7pm Panel Discussion, 8pm Concert, Kanbar Hall, JCCSF**

COMPOSERS: Dieter Schnebel, Michael Bach, Åke Parmerud, Elena Kats-Chernin, Frances-Marie Uitti, Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith

PERFORMERS: Michael Bach, Lisa Moore, Frances-Marie Uitti, Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith with Anthony Brown and Del Sol String Quartet

Dieter Schnebel

Mit diesen Händen (excerpts) (1992)

Michael Bach, voice and cello with BACH.bow

Åke Parmerud

La vie mécanique (2004)

pre-recorded media

Elena Kats-Chernin

Purple Prelude (1996)

Tast-En (1991)

Lisa Moore, piano

Frances-Marie Uitti

Rap't (2007)

Uitti, cello with two bows and electronics

U. S. PREMIERE

Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith

Taif: Prayer in the Garden of The Hijaz (2007)

Smith, trumpet; Anthony Brown, percussion; Del Sol String Quartet

WORLD PREMIERE, commissioned by Other Minds

Opening night features two remarkable cellists: Frances-Marie Uitti, in a solo performance of her composition, *Rap't*, employs her pioneering two-bow technique; Michael Bach sings and uses his curved BACH.bow in *Mit diesen Händen* (With These Hands), a work written especially for Bach by renowned German composer Dieter Schnebel (b. 1930), and based on a harrowing text by post-WW II author and Nobel Prize winner Heinrich Böll (1917-1985).

Other Minds is also proud to introduce on opening night two composers making their first visits to the Bay Area: Sweden's Åke Parmerud (b. 1953) and Elena Kats-Chernin (b. 1957) of Uzbekistan. Parmerud's work, which has earned him nearly every available prize for electro-acoustic music including 13 awards from the International Festival for Music in Bourges, France, combines intricate timbral ideas with a driving, pulsating energy. Kats-Chernin's writing for piano in *Purple Prelude* and *Tast-En* spins its melodic figures into a virtuosic and mesmeric web of repetition and detailed variation. These challenging works will be performed by Lisa Moore, co-founder of Bang On A Can All-Stars, who has released a full recording of Kats-Chernin's music for solo piano.

Opening night concludes with Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith's sixth string quartet, *Taif: Prayer in the Garden of The Hijaz*, the first of three world premiere commissions at OM 13. Widely known as a free jazz legend for his work with the Creative Construction Company (Anthony Braxton and Leroy Jenkins), Muhal Richard Abrams, George Lewis and others, Smith has also developed his own composition and notation system for improvisers, called "Ankhrasmation." He will take the stage for this world premiere performance, joined by Oakland percussionist Anthony Brown and Del Sol String Quartet.

OTHER MINDS 13: Friday, March 7, 2008 **7pm Panel Discussion, 8pm Concert, Kanbar Hall, JCCSF**

COMPOSERS: Åke Parmerud, Michael Bach, John Cage, Dieter Schnebel, Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith, Dan Becker

PERFORMERS: Michael Bach, Adorno Ensemble, Other Minds Ensemble

Åke Parmerud

Dreaming in Darkness (2005)

pre-recorded media

Michael Bach Bachtischa

18-7-92 (1992)

Bach, cello with BACH.bow & pre-recorded media

U. S. PREMIERE

John Cage & Michael Bach Bachtischa

*One*¹³ (1992)

Michael Bach, cello with BACH.bow & pre-recorded media

U. S. PREMIERE

Dieter Schnebel

Quintessenz (1993)

Poem für 4 Köpfe from *Zeichen-Sprache* (1987–89)

Other Minds Ensemble

Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith

Moths, Flames, and the Giant Sequoia Redwood Trees (1996)

Adorno Ensemble

Dan Becker

Keeping Time (2008)

Adorno Ensemble

WORLD PREMIERE, commissioned by Other Minds

On Friday night, Other Minds honors one of its guiding spirits, John Cage, with the American premiere of *One*¹³. Composed in collaboration with and dedicated to Michael Bach, this late composition explores with a profound simplicity the world of possibility afforded by Bach's curved bow. With the ability to bow all four strings of the cello at once, Bach created his work *18-7-92* as an exploration of twenty different ways to perform one note. This led to the co-authorship of *One*¹³, which in performance consists of one live part and playback of three other parts recorded by the same soloist beforehand.

Works by Dieter Schnebel expose two more sides of his wide-ranging oeuvre. *Quintessenz*, for four vocalists with piano, reflects the composer's multifaceted background: Schnebel studied theology and philosophy as well as music at the University of Tübingen, found inspiration for his open reform theological thinking from Theodor Adorno, Ernst Bloch and Albert Schweitzer, and even worked as a pastor before becoming a professor of music. *Poem für 4 Köpfe* reveals Schnebel's capacity for experimentation and innovation across the borders of music, theater, performance art and sound poetry, condensing vocal sounds and physical gestures into an audiovisual sound poem.

The evening concludes with a world premiere commission: *Keeping Time* by San Francisco post-minimalist Dan Becker. Becker's new work continues his exploration of pattern and pulse, constructing a skillful narrative from the colors of San Francisco's Adorno Ensemble.

OTHER MINDS 13: Saturday, March 8, 2008 **7pm Panel Discussion, 8pm Concert, Kanbar Hall, JCCSF**

COMPOSERS: Keeril Makan, Elena Kats-Chernin, Dan Becker, Morton Subotnick

PERFORMERS: David Shively, Del Sol String Quartet, Elena Kats-Chernin, Morton Subotnick, Kathleen Supové

Keeril Makan

Resonance Alloy (2007)

David Shively, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE, commissioned by Other Minds

Static Rising (2004)

David Shively, percussion; Del Sol String Quartet

Elena Kats-Chernin

Russian Rag (1996/2007)

Fast Blue Village (2007)

Kats-Chernin, piano; Del Sol String Quartet

Eliza Aria (2002)

Kats-Chernin, piano

Dan Becker

Revolution (2004)

Kathleen Supové, prepared disklavier with pre-recorded media

Morton Subotnick

The Other Piano (2007)

Kathleen Supové, piano; Subotnick, live electronics

For the final concert of OM 13, Other Minds welcomes back to the Bay Area electronic music pioneer Morton Subotnick (b. 1933). Drawing on years of trailblazing work with synthesizers and interactive computer music, Subotnick takes the stage with New York-based pianist Kathleen Supové for his recent composition, *The Other Piano*. Supové also lends her “dextrous perfection” (San Francisco Chronicle) to Dan Becker’s *Revolution*, a stunning and complex work. The solo pianist performs on a disklavier – the modern, computer-driven player piano. In addition, the piano is prepared with the insertion of metal screws, clothespins, erasers, and other small objects between the strings. These unusual elements are combined with recordings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create a piece of haunting and lyrical power.

Saturday’s concert includes the world premiere of *Resonance Alloy*, a work for solo percussion by UC Berkeley graduate Keeril Makan, commissioned by Other Minds. Percussionist David Shively will be joined by Del Sol String Quartet for Makan’s gnarly and noisy *Static Rising*. Del Sol then performs works of Elena Kats-Chernin, with the composer at the piano.

Acknowledgments

Other Minds gratefully acknowledges support for the 13th Other Minds Music Festival from: National Endowment for the Arts, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Goethe-Institut San Francisco, The Netherland-America Foundation, Inc., The American Scandinavian Foundation, The Zellerbach Family Foundation; in-kind support from Amoeba Music, San Francisco Bay Guardian, Yamaha Corporation of America, Sherman Clay & Co.; official hotel sponsor The Monte Cristo Hotel.

