



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information and media requests contact:
Adam Fong, Associate Director, Other Minds: (415) 934-8134, adam@otherminds.org

OTHER MINDS CD RELEASE:
Hands Like Waves Unfold
KUI DONG, PREPARED PIANO

JOHN CAGE'S PREPARED PIANO INSPIRES ALBUM OF SOLO IMPROVISATIONS

"The outcome, hopefully, tells a story of self-discovery among the intimacy of sounds—a journey of self-enlightenment through conflict and tranquility."

—Kui Dong

"The spatial effects the composer achieves with her exquisitely refracted music are ceaselessly compelling at the local level. But individual effects were enhanced...by the cumulative sense that, across the span of the piece, hearing itself had been heightened."

—SF Examiner review of *Flying Apples* at 3rd Other Minds Festival, November 1996

"In the directness of the improvising she, so to speak, wears her compositional heart on her sleeve."

—Christian Wolff, *composer*

On January 2, 2008, **Other Minds** will release a CD of improvisations by **Kui Dong** titled *Hands Like Waves Unfold* (Other Minds Records OM 1011-2). The recording features solo performances by Kui Dong on the prepared piano, and will be accompanied by a 16-page booklet featuring an exclusive interview with the composer-performer, conducted by **Other Minds Artistic Director Charles Amirkhania**. The CD may be purchased at www.otherminds.org, and will be made available through retailers and online stores including Amazon and iTunes.

Internationally acclaimed as a composer, Kui Dong's first release of solo improvisations playfully exploits the full range and color of her prepared piano, with a dedication to the detail of each sound that only an accomplished composer could attain. The 10 tracks of *Hands Like Waves Unfold* were culled from two studio recording sessions: in the first, Kui Dong used piano preparations designed by **John Cage**; in the second, she created preparations of her own. Her virtuosic playing guides listeners through unusual textures, from the frenetic to the sublime, re-discovering the piano inside and out.

Kui Dong received B.A. and M.A. degrees in theory and composition from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and a doctoral degree in composition from Stanford University. Her recent compositions have incorporated traditional Chinese instruments and musical ideas into contemporary settings, and also show influences from jazz, experimental, electro-acoustic and other ethnic music. She has composed for many different genres, including ballet, orchestral and chamber ensembles, chorus, electro-acoustic music, film scores, and multimedia art. Kui Dong also performs on piano in a free-improvisation trio with **Christian Wolff** and **Larry Polansky**, her colleagues at Dartmouth College, where she currently teaches as Associate Professor. She has received many honors, awards and commissions, and her compositions have been presented in music festivals and concerts around the world. Kui Dong began her relationship with Other Minds as a featured artist of the 3rd **Other Minds Festival of New Music** (OM 3) in 1996, at the age of 29; other participants of that year's festival included **Laurie Anderson**, **George Lewis**, **Frederic Rzewski**, and **La Monte Young**.

Hands Like Waves Unfold is nationally distributed by Allegro Corporation, and is available for sale at www.otherminds.org

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Other Minds • 333 Valencia Street, Suite 303 • San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 934-8134 • www.otherminds.org