

The Nature of Music: Common Ground featuring Raven Chacon

Presented by Other Minds and the David Brower Center



Wednesday, September 7, 2016 7:00pm
Goldman Theater, David Brower Center, Berkeley, CA

At The Point Where The Rivers Crossed, We Drew Our Knives (2010)

Raven Chacon- electronics

Air [Moving Somewhere Between The Navajo Nation and The Grand Canyon National Park (somewhere a line between the Dinetah and Hopitutskwa)] (2016)

Raven Chacon - electronics

Brief Intermission

Conversation with Raven Chacon and Charles Amirkhanian

Air [Moving Somewhere Between The Navajo Nation and the Grand Canyon National Park (somewhere a line between the Dinetah and Hopitutskwa)] (2016)

Continuing Chacon's series of works dedicated to field recording the contested deserts of the Southwest U.S., *Air* gathers various sounds, mostly wind, from the disputed areas where the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Nation, and the Grand Canyon National Parks, each with their own battles with encroachment, overlap.

This work was commissioned by Other Minds specifically for this performance

Raven Chacon (born Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation, Arizona, USA) is a composer of chamber music, a performer of experimental noise music, and an installation artist. He performs regularly as a solo artist as well as with numerous ensembles in the Southwest. He is also a member of the American Indian art collective Postcommodity.

Chacon's work explores sounds of acoustic handmade instruments overdriven through electric systems and the direct and indirect audio feedback responses from their interactions. He was a student of many notable teachers, including James Tenney, Wadada Leo Smith, Morton Subotnick, and Michael Pisaro.

Recent and ongoing collaborations are projects with Bob Bellerue (Kilt), William Fowler Collins (Mesa Ritual), John Dieterich (Summer Assassins), Robert Henke, Thollem McDonas, and the ETHEL quartet (Native American Composers Apprenticeship Project).

Chacon has presented his work in different contexts at Vancouver Art Gallery, ABC No Rio, REDCAT, Biennale of Sydney, Canyon DeChelly, Adelaide Festival, Ende Tymes Festival and The Kennedy Center.

He lives and works in Albuquerque, NM.

The Nature of Music

From the music of Haydn, Dvorak and Messiaen, classical composers have long been using the sounds of the natural world as source material. With the advent of reel-to-reel tape recorders that inspired composers of the *musique concrete* movement, we could hear sounds slowed down or speeded up to bring new ears to common everyday sources. Along the way John Cage proposed in 1952, with *4'33"*, a silent piece for piano, that a listener could create their own concert by simply listening to ambient sounds without altering them, recognizing that they too have form and content. With the advent of personal recording equipment like the cassette recorder, environmental sounds have been recorded, sampled and integrated into composed and improvised music. In 1970, Charles Amirkhania and Richard Friedman launched the World Ear Project at KPFA in Berkeley. They invited people from around the world to record continuous sound for 15 minutes or longer without alteration. The result was a long-running program in which listeners driving over the Bay Bridge would be mystified by long segments of sounds of a street market in India or frogs and crickets at night in Cayucos, California. The David Brower Center and Other Minds will present complementary concerts for each visual art show in the Hazel Wolf Gallery.

Other Minds, is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms through concerts, workshops and conferences that bring together artists and audiences of diverse traditions, generations and cultural backgrounds. By fostering cross-cultural exchange and creative dialogue, and by encouraging exploration of areas in new music seldom touched upon by mainstream music institutions, Other Minds is committed to expanding and reshaping the definition of what constitutes "serious music."

The David Brower Center provides a home for the environmental movement by advocating for the beauty, diversity and ecological integrity of Earth. The Brower Center accomplishes this mission through a distinctive combination of permanent infrastructure and ongoing programs in a unique civic institution that informs the public about the environmental challenges we face and the bold actions we must take if ours is to remain a living planet; inspires people to recognize their own power and responsibility to act on behalf of the Earth; and connects individuals and organizations dedicated to social equity and ecological sustainability.

Upcoming Other Minds Events

November 20, 2016 – Nature of Music – Alvin Curran, David Brower Center, Berkeley CA

February 18, 2017 – OM 22 – Pacific Rim Centennials: the Music of Lou Harrison & Isang Yun, Mission Dolores Basilica, San Francisco, CA

May 20, 2017 – OM 22 – Lou Harrison Gamelan Masterpieces: featuring Nicole Paiement & William Winant Percussion Group, Mission Dolores Basilica, San Francisco, CA

