

the transbay

Creative Music Calendar

san francisco bay area
monthly publication for
experimental/improvised/
noise/electronic/freejazz/
outrock/21st century
music and sonic art

September 2002

Scotch, Duct, Magnetic... Transparent!

by Thomas Day

The "New" San Francisco Tape Music Center converged for its second installment of the Transparent Tape Music Festival, which stretched over three August days in Berkeley.

The second evening of programming opened with a work from 1959 by John R. Pierce titled *Stochatta*, which was a 37-second tune created at Bell Laboratories as an early experiment in computer synthesized music. Considering the amount of time it probably took to create these few phrases—in the '50s—makes it even more appealing.

Next up was Bay Area composer Cliff Caruthers. It was my first experience with his music, and I must say I was impressed. The premiere (one of three on this evening's program) of his new work *Owl in Daylight* featured field recordings from "Hell's Kitchen" at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California and the Waimaia Falls Bird Sanctuary in Hawaii. It's always great to hear a new composer that excites you.

Feel Something, by Ven Voisey, followed. This piece left me a bit cold. Definitely not up to the same quality of the rest of the night's works. Oh well, I guess composing is sort of a hit-and-miss affair. Perhaps next time I hear this guy's work it will blow me away.

Larry Austin re-created yet another classic work by a gone composer in his reworking of John Cage's *Williams [re]Mix[ed]*, which concluded the program's first half. Anyone familiar with this piece knows its "golden oldie" status in the annals of twentieth century music and its standing as one of the earliest examples of true cut-up music. Basically, Austin took the original recordings Cage made and then tacked on an additional 10 minutes of insipid saxophone playing through a delay and the clichéd use of Cage's voice in the "remix." Personally, I would have preferred hearing something

more obscure that wouldn't be readily available in your local music store. These guys should know better than to program anything with "remix" in the title.

The second half of the concert opened with Max V. Mathews's classic rendition of *Daisy Bell/Bicycle Built for Two* from 1961 (which inspired the HAL 9000 cover from 2001: *A Space Odyssey*), which was also created at Bell Labs. I love this piece; it's kooky yet for the time a complete revelation for computer synthesized sound. The stately Mr. Mathews was in attendance and humbly accepted the crowd's enthusiastic applause.



Max Mathews in 1984

nSFTMC founder Matt Ingalls was next on the bill. I had been looking forward to hearing his newest work, which was the main reason I picked this Saturday event over the other two programs. Ingalls's endeavors into "cut-up" music were taken to a new plateau in this 2'30" shot to the head, *Scherzo: Allegro molto*. His application of "classical" composition formula to such relatively short burst of sound was a feat in itself. My only qualm was in the programming: to have this piece follow Cage's *Williams [re]Mix[ed]* seemed to diminish its impact.

Following was the gorgeous eight-minute work by Kent Jolly, *Holding Pattern* (1998). I'm a hard sell on the meditative stuff, but it truly hit the mark; and perhaps, as a whole, it was the most enjoyable work on the program. Sound was derived from the minimal sources of two bells and a saxophone sample, which left plenty of room for the audience to explore the work's internalized structure.

Gilles Gobeil's *Traces* from 1985 followed. Again this Canadian composer is new to me, and was the sole representative of '80s tape music on the program.

Quick Calendar

Sun 9/1 8.2p \$zero-20 ACME [3192 Adeline, Berk]
Triaxium West plays Anthony Braxton

Tue 9/3 8p \$6 Black Box [1928 Telegraph, Oak]
Heft Pistole & Good For Cows

Wed 9/4 8p 21Grand [449B 23rd St, Oak]
Jazz: Stelpnurst & Greenlief-Perkis Duo

Wed 9/4 Noon FREE Hertz [UC Berk]
Mei-Fang Lin plays Davidovsky, Harvey, Taube

Thu 9/5 8p \$6-10 509 Cultural Center [509 Ellis, SF]
Wind Trio of Alphaville/Jason Mears/Stelpnurst
(from LA)

Fri 9/6 8p \$10/5 Meridian [545 Sutter, SF]
Rent Romus/Ernesto Diaz Infante/Jesse Quattro

Sat 9/7 8p 21Grand [449B 23rd St, Oak]
Zenith Novelty Theater: Destroy Ape Technology
+ Brian Kenney Fresno + Midline Errors

Tue 9/10 8p \$6 Black Box [1928 Telegraph, Oak]
Joseph Zitt/VoiceWind & Morgan Guberman

Wed 9/11 8p \$8-10 Blue Room [2331 Mission, SF]
911

Thu 9/12 8p \$6-10 509 Cultural Center [509 Ellis, SF]
Company Week III

Fri 9/13 4.9p FREE Wheatgrass [1785 15th, SF]
Acoustic Jamm

Sun 9/15 7.5p \$5-10 SIMM [116 9th, SF]
Dave Mihaly Group and Bill Noertker

Sun 9/15 8.2p \$zero-20 ACME
[3192 Adeline, Berk]
MicroFestival of Experimental Vocal Improvisation

Tue 9/17 8p \$6 Black Box [1928 Telegraph, Oak]
Sacrifice Fly & Smith/Lindsay/Josephson Trio

(cont. on page 2)

I truly loved this work, with its mechanical rhythms built from various sound strains. Yes, it sounds dated, yes, it sounds '80s, but that's certainly part of the charm for this listener. Gobeil must be a great composer: his bio consists entirely of a long list of awards he has won; after all, isn't this the yardstick by which we measure a composer's success?

The closing work on this evening's program was the long-awaited world premiere of Joseph Anderson's *Pacific Slope*.

(cont. on page 3)

Sun, September 1

Triaxium West
presents the music of



Anthony Braxton
Compositions
40B, 142,
110A (+ 108B, 40I & 40N), and 287 (+ 23E)

Liz Albee - trumpet
Matthew Sperry - bass
Tom Yoder - trombone
Gino Robair - drums
Ches Smith - drums
Matt Ingalls - reeds
Dan Plonsey - reeds
John Shiurba - guitar
Phil Gelb - shakuhachi
Brett Lerner - koto

The 2nd concert in our series instigated by John Shiurba exploring the music of Anthony Braxton. This concert curated by Matthew Sperry

Sun, September 15



a Micro-Festival of Experimental Vocal Improvisation

see web page for more details

ACME Observatory
contemporary music series
@ tuva space 3192 adeline berkeley ca
sfsound.org/acme.html
acme@sfsound.org 510.649.8744
8:15pm promptly [set order tba]
\$zero to \$20 sliding scale
1 block from ashby bart

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@Mission St. 1.5 blocks
from Civic Center BART
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SEPTEMBER 15

DAVE MIHALY'S SHIMMERING LEAVES CORETET
Ara Anderson-trumpet,perc, califone phanograph
Erik Pearson-guitar,tearor sax,fiddle
Jolie Holland-fiddle,voice,perc.
Chris Arnold-musical saw
Dave Mihaly-drums,guitar,marimba
SPECIAL GUEST
Rent Romus, soprano saxophone

BILL NOERTKER'S BASS CLEF CLUB
Danielle DeGruttola-cello
Toyoji Temita-trombone
Dave Mihaly-drums
Bill Noertker-bass

WWW.OUTSOUND.ORG

Quick Calendar (cont. from page 1)

- Wed 9/18 8p \$21-45 Zellerbach [UC Berk]
BerkSym: Ligeti, Ustvolskaja, Messiaen
- Wed 9/18 8p \$8-10 Blue Room [2331 Mission, SF]
Bad
- Wed 9/18 8p 21Grand [449B 23rd St, Oak]
An Evening of Out Music curated by Rent Romus
- Wed 9/18 8p \$10 CNMAT [1750 Arch, Berk]
Duo Contour: Christopher Fox/Laurence Crane/
Christian Wolff/James Saunders/ Igor Majcen
- Thu 9/19 7p FREE Modern Times [Valencia&19th, SF]
P.Payne/A.Shuman/L. Lee/J.Chan/N.Straghalis
- Thu 9/19 8p \$6-10 509 Cultural Center [509 Ellis, SF]
San Francisco Found Object Festival
- Fri 9/20 8p \$6-10 964 Natoma [964 Natoma, SF]
Found Object Festival
- Fri 9/20 8.2p \$10 Noe Valley [1021 Sanchez, SF]
Duo Contour and Friends
- Sat 9/21 8p \$10 Hardyman Hall
[2087 Addison, Berk]
Composer Portraits: Paul Dresher w/ Abel-Steinberg
- Sat 9/21 7.5p \$10 Mills [5000 MacArthur, Oak]
PamelaZ, D.Slusser, C.Brown & G.Galindo
- Sun 9/22 7p Hertz [UC Berk]
Messiaen Celebration
- Sun 9/22 8p \$10 Art Center [1275 Walnut, Berk]
Duo Contour and Friends
- Mon 9/23 8p \$sliding (dinner 6p \$12) Headlands Ctr.
[944 Fort Barry, Sausalito]
Headlands Center for the Arts Presents: Fred Frith
- Mon 9/23 7.5p FREE Mills [5000 MacArthur, Oak]
Songlines: Janet Feder, guitar
- Tue 9/24 8p \$6 Black Box [1928 Telegraph, Oak]
Artship Recordings Wave 10 & Married Couple
- Thu 9/26 8p \$6-10 509 Cultural Center [509 Ellis, SF]
Bob Bellerue/Blevin Blectum/Lesser/Ryan Junell
- Fri 9/27 4.9p FREE Wheatgrass [1785 15th, SF]
Acoustic Jamm
- Fri 9/27 6.5p \$12+ War Memorial [SF]
SF Opera: Messiaen's "St. Francis of Assisi"
- Fri 9/27 8p 21Grand [449B 23rd St, Oak]
Moe! Staiano CD Release
- Sun 9/29 10a-4p FREE Morrison Hall [SF]
The Life and Works of Olivier Messiaen
- Mon 9/30 8p \$10 Yoshi's [Jack London, Oak]
Dan Plonsey's Daniel Popsicle
- Mon 9/30 8p \$18 Forum [Yerba Buena, SF]
SFContempPlayers: Gorecki/Wolff/Burns
- Tue 10/1 8p \$6 Black Box [1928 Telegraph, Oak]
Moe! Staiano & tba
- Wed 10/2 Noon FREE Hertz [UC Berk]
J.Schott/L.Ochs/D.Bitheil/M.Wright/C.Smith

Creative Music Thursdays @ 509 cultural space

PLEASE NOTE! IMPORTANT NEWS! The Luggage Store Gallery will be closed to make some improvements to the space in August and September 2002. We will reopen in October 2002 with a great show! The creative/music series will move to 509 Cultural Center/ 509 Ellis Street for August and September, please see website for updates. www.luggagestoregallery.org

09.05.02
8-10pm Outsound.org Presents
A monthly night of experimental music curated by Rent Romus featuring:
Wind Trio Of Alphaville
supple & sensitive with fresh & surprising sounds
www.bandmusic.com

from L.A. **Jason Mears and Sjelburnst**
diverse experiences & sounds, music without boundaries
www.jasonmears.com

09.12.02
8-10pm **Company Night III**
a select group of local bay area improvisers TEA are invited again to perform in varying combinations over the course of an evening to maximize the spontaneity of improvisation as players listen to, and interact with, each other. www.bayimproviser.com

09.19.02
San Francisco Found Object Festival
Musicians spontaneously create music with objects you bring!
featuring SKIZMZ, Moe! Staiano, v.t., Audiosports and Ernesto Diaz-Infante. For more info contact: mfrid@gnome.com

09.26.02
8-10pm **debrisus.net Presents**
A monthly night of experimental electronics curated by Steve Jones featuring:
Bob Bellerue - sound art
www.hellformel.com
SAGAN:
Blevin Blectum (music), Lesbe (voice), Ryan Junell (projection/visual)
www.LSRT.com/sagan <http://kibbitz.net>

THE 509 CULTURAL SPACE 509 Ellis St (between Leavenworth and Hyde St.), San Francisco, CA USA. It is a non-profit corp. funded by the City of San Francisco, grants, and your contributions. We ask that you contribute \$5-10/dollar. All ages welcome, no covercharge for lack of funds. 415255.9571 www.luggagestoregallery.org
for backstage email: lzd@earthlink.net or visit: www.blevinblectum.com/loccasat.htm

Transparent Tape Festival

(cont. from page 1)

Anderson is one of those young composers seemingly poised on greatness. This magnum opus clocked in at a marathon 25 minutes and was made up of recordings Anderson made of the Pacific Ocean in ambisonic surround sound in Northern California—certainly the heart of this piece. A simple yet elegantly rendered bell sounds throughout the work, which Anderson describes as “an ancient call to transcendence.” This aside, neither of these magnificently recorded sounds are what excited me about the piece. In fact, they paled in comparison to the work’s second section: a riveting rhythmic pulsation that smashed this listener in the ears like a battering ram set on high speed. Anderson definitely approached one of those rare moments of compositional splendor as he wound out of this section—truly amazing stuff. Unfortunately, the remainder of the work did not approach anything comparable. Perhaps the section was so strong that it was impossible for Anderson to outdo it.

I’m looking very much forward to the third Transparent Tape Festival. Best wishes to the nSFTMC for its continuing vigor in bringing this sort of programming to the Bay Area.

On Location at Marin Headlands: Trio Nattoh and special guest Chris Brown

by Tom Djil

A surreptitious but hearty hats off to John Ingle is due for his efforts in stealth-booking a new-music concert series at the inspiring locale of the Marin Headlands Center for the Arts, located out at Fort Barry in the Marin Headlands (part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area). John and his cohort Emma-Louise Anderson have done a great job presenting an unusual and varied line-up of local artists. And the setting is simply gorgeous—and free of city noises like sirens, trucks, and singing drunks. It’s not that far from either San Francisco or the East Bay, and well worth the drive. Another reason to make the trip: did I mention that John is a gourmet chef, and whips up a sterling dinner before the show in the mess hall (reservations required)?

The Monday August 12 concert of **Trio Nattoh + Chris Brown** was fantastic. The musicians were set at the end of a wonderful old, evocative room with high ceilings, old military-issue fixtures, beautiful cracked, aging patina on the walls and wood floor—an inspiring and resonant space. Chris had a good piano, all

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Jim Ryan • alto/tenor & flute
Spirit • percussion
Damon Smith • doublebass
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prepared, which he de-prepared during the course of the set. His combination of free-music/post-Cowell/computer-electronics sensibilities makes him one of the most singular and gotta-hear piano players in the world. Shoko Hikage did some exemplary samurai improvising. If you don't watch out, she'll take your head off—she damn near dispatched her kotos to the ghost world. Tim Perkis was funny and irreverent and inscrutable. He has a way of rudely stomping into a sonic space with muddy frequency-modulated feet—but it always seems like just the right thing to do at that moment. And Phil Gelb just played great. This was the first time I'd had a chance to really hear him, and he sounded like the master of timbre, phrasing and attack he clearly is. All of them had huge ears on, listening at a very high level. Only gripe: some pieces too short. Many of them could have been taken quite a ways further. With more time spent together, this trio could rival AMM in close-listening precision and beauty.

Upcoming concerts in the Marin Headlands series:

- September 23: Fred Frith
- October 7: John Shiurba's 5X5
- November 25: David Kwan & Xopher Davidon

THE BLACK BOX SERIES

**Tuesday nights at
The Black Box**
1928 Telegraph Ave.
bet. 19 & 20 St. Downtown Oakland
1 blk from 19th St. BART
510-451-1932

September 3rd:

Heft Pistle
(Chamber improvisation of such)

Good For Cows
(Bovine duo w/ Ches Smith & Devin Hoff)

September 10th:

Joseph Zitt & VoiceWind

(Voice ensemble performing "feldMorph")

Morgan Guberman & Exotic Zoolgy
(A solo improvisation with a barage of instrumentation)

September 17th:

Sacrifice Fly
(Everyone likes "power-animals", right?)

Damon Smith, Jacob Lindsay, Aurora Josephon Trio
(Improvised trio music for clarinets, doublebass, and voice)

September 24th:

Artship Recordings Wave 10
(Hugh Livingston's Artship CD release party w/ many musicians)

Married Couple
(The anti-jazz of post groove)

October 1st:

Moe! Staiano
(Solo percussion with loud noises! Oh no!)

+tba

wheelchair accessible. All shows start at 7:58pm.
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<http://sfsound.org/transbay.html>
transbay@sfsound.org

The Transbay Creative Music Calendar is a volunteer-produced free monthly journal for non-commercial creative new music in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to our comprehensive listing of upcoming events, we publish articles and reviews about local music and the people who create it. We focus on a wide range of modern music, including: experimental, improvised, noise, electronic, free-jazz, outrock, 21st century compositions, and sonic art. Each month, 1000 copies of the transbay are mailed to individuals and hand delivered to over 45 performance venues and public locations throughout the bay area. Pick one up at the next show you attend!

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The Transbay Calendar

Editor: Matt Ingalls/Tom Djil
Ad Sales: Rent Romus
Production: Matt Ingalls/Tom Djil
Proofreading: Rent Romus
Subscriptions: Scott Looney
Accounting: Matt Ingalls
Web Master: John Lee
Distribution: Scott Looney
David Slusser
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Jim Ryan and Ernesto Diaz-Infante
caught in the act at
the SFAlt Festival 2002



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2455 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley
1855 Haight Street, San Francisco

Submission Deadline for the October Issue is September 15th.
Please send Quick Calendar Events separately in the proper format.

Duo Contour
(Germany/UK)
presents
two concerts on
three evenings:
9/18, 9/20, 9/22



"Carte Blanche for the Duo Contour" Music/theater for trumpet and percussion with compositions by Christopher Fox, Laurence Crane, Christian Wolff, James Saunders, and the world premiere of Igor Majcen's "Battaglia."

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 8pm. Center for New Music and Audio Technologies, 1750 Arch St., Berkeley. Tickets: \$10/\$5 students.

"Duo Contour and Friends" with guest performers and works by James Saunders, Igor Majcen, Alexander Grebtschenko, and Philipp Blume. Tickets: \$10/\$8 students.

Friday, Sept. 20, 8:15pm Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco.

Sunday, Sept. 22, 7:30pm Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. Berkeley.

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