

the transbay

Creative Music Calendar

MAY 2008



Photo by Tom Djill

TOYOJI PETER TOMITA 1951 - 2008

in memory of toyoji tomita

Born in Berkeley, California and died unexpectedly on April 17 at home.

Toyoji was an accomplished trombonist who studied at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music. He was a music instructor at Mills College in Oakland and performed with several ensembles in the Bay Area. Toyoji was the owner and president of T.P.T. Gardener, Inc., one of the first sustainable gardening companies to be awarded public works contracts including the City of Oakland Frank Ogawa Plaza project and the Alameda County Juvenile Hall renovation project.

Toyoji was a trombonist, teacher and gardener. He was a great musician, energetic organizer, keen wit, loving husband, dedicated son, and good friend. We will all miss him terribly. Please visit deeplisting.org/site/toyojitomita to contribute to the memorial fund. ❖

CONCERT REVIEW BY M@ INGALLS

san francisco contemporary music players

March 17, 2008 at Yerba Buena Gardens Forum, San Francisco

The San Francisco Contemporary Players have improved their programming the last couple of years, and if you can afford the \$27 ticket price, you might want to check them out sometime. Although they are doing OK without you: their poorly titled “regions unknown + nameless” concert on March 17 was nearly sold out.

The first piece on the concert was Rand Steiger’s *Dreamscape* for small ensemble and electronics. It sounded like it was written in 1974, and I was shocked to see that it was composed in 2004! The electronics were mostly regenerated delay, auto-pan, and a harmonizer. Although the writing was active with virtuosic passages played admirably by the instrumentalists, Steiger tried too hard to be “accessible.” The result was fairly boring.

Next came *Oria* (2003), for amplified ensemble by 30-something Greek composer Georgia Spiropoulos. The piece started out great: airy noise sounds contrasted with sustained pitches *a la* Lachenmann, but it eventually lost direction. By the end, you felt like the piece was just a “grab bag” of effects with little reason to be a composition. “Sound” compositions are not this group’s specialty, but you could tell the performers were *trying* to get it right—even when required to make noises with their voice—which is not often the case when classical musicians are presented with this kind of material. But the work kept my interest throughout, which is rare for me these days.

Put in perspective, if this piece was on *Other Minds* the week before it would have been the highlight of the festival!

The second half of the concert was a performance of Karlheinz Stockhausen’s 45 minute *Kontakte* (1960) by percussionist William Winant, pianist Julie Steinberg and a quadruphonics tape part of synthesized sounds. I was surprised by how “conservative” the work sounded - lots of **pitch** and plenty of traditional “chamber music” writing. Typical of Stockhausen’s “moment form”, some sections were uneventful and slightly boring, but each of those sections seemed to help make the following material seem profound. About half way through, after a great “solo” on the tape that gradually transformed from a high-pitched tremolo into individual low drum-like sounds, the piece really built up steam.

There is something about *Kontakte*’s tape part that is really refreshing. No one writes electronic music this way anymore. There is a directness, rawness, and isolation of individual sounds and gestures that seems really rare these days. The cheesy sounds on the tape are so dated now you can just enjoy them for what they are instead of cringing (as I did when I first heard a recording of the piece in college). Because the tape is the central part of the piece, the success of the performance does not really depend upon the accuracy of the instrumentalists. However, Willie and Julie were well rehearsed and played excellently. I did at times wish there could have been more energy from both of them, but this may more attributed to Yerba Buena’s bad acoustics than anything. ❖

phenomenally fine print

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 talk about a wide range of modern music, including: experimental, improvised, noise, electronic, free-jazz, outrock, 21st century compositions, and sonic art. Each month, 1,000 copies of the Transbay are mailed to individuals and hand-delivered to over 45 performance venues and public locations throughout the Bay Area. Contact us for a free subscription!

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

the transbay

Creative Music Calendar

Thursday May 1

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents New Music Series
8pm **YoyoMama** Sandra Yolles, electronic percussion; Bob Marsh, cello, violin, voice
9pm **Paper Legs**, Trevor Healy Brian Osborne

Sunday May 4

Musicians' Union Hall • 7:30pm \$10 / \$8
Outsound Presents... The SIMM Series
Cuatro de Mayo celebration
Noertker's Moxie: Annelise Zamula, saxes, flute, Jim Peterson, saxes, flute, Bill Noertker, contrabass, Jason Levis, drums.
Also appearing: **Mihaly/Schmitz Duo**, Dave Mihaly, drums, Marc Schmitz, guitar

Monday May 5

San Francisco State University Knuth Hall • 8pm
sfSound
premieres new works by composers from SF State (**FREE admission**)

Tuesday May 6

Mills College Lisser Theatre • 8pm **FREE**
Music Improvisation Ensemble
16 musicians from the graduate music program at Mills College directed by India Cooke

Climate Theatre • 8pm
Colin Stetson - solo bass sax; **Darren Johnston**, **Myles Boisen**, **Scott Amendola Trio**

21 Grand • 8pm \$6-10
Carl Ludwig Hübsch, tubist/composer from Germany. Following an improvised duo with local percussionist virtuoso **Gino Robair**, Mr. Hübsch will lead **sfSound** in two of his compositions for large ensemble.

Wednesday May 7

Intersection for the Arts • 8pm \$10-\$25
Jazz-in-Analogue
Bassist **Lisa Mezzacappa** debuts a new body of compositions and arrangements inspired by free-jazz recordings of the late '60s and '70s. Set one: **Myra Melford** (piano), **Jason Levis** (percussion), Set two: **Aaron Bennett** (saxophones), **John Finkbeiner** (guitar), **Vijay Anderson** (drums)

21 Grand • 8pm \$6-10
Never Enough Hope (Tobin Summerfield's large ensemble, Chicago plus locals) + **Colin Stetson** solo + **Zoyres Eastern European Wild Ferment** (Mike Perlmutter and others).

Bluesix • 9pm no cover
The Listening Hut
Carl Ludwig Hübsch with Gino Robair. Luke Westbrook/ Matt Nelson duo opens

Thursday May 8

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents New Music Series
8pm: **Amar Chaudhary**
9pm: **That Hideous Strength**

12 Galaxies • 9pm \$8
Never Enough Hope
with **Tobin Summerfield**, Colin Stetson, Darren Johnston, Roger Riedelbauer, Tim Strand, and Andrew Kitchen, Dina Maccabee, Jessica Ivry, Tackett Brown, Brian Lipson, Jaimie Branch, Aram Shelton, Marc Riordan, and more.

Friday May 9

Mills College Art Museum • 7:30pm **Free**
Resonant Migration
Andy Strain's intermedia performance with video installation artist **Michael Hall**, **Amanda Schoofs'** visual stylings, Bay Area dancer **Andrew Wass**, and Max/Jitter master **Kevin Adams Esq.**

21 Grand • 9pm \$6-10
Monochrom
Viennese performance and media artists/provocateurs, with music performed by **Aurora**, **Damon Smith**, **Weasel Walter** and others.

The Uptown • 9pm \$8
Never Enough Hope with **Marie Sioux** and **Edmund Welles**

Saturday May 10

artSF • Noon Donation
Godwaffle Noise Pancakes
Sudden Infant (Switzerland), **Core of the Coalman**, **Arachnid Arcade** (Seattle), **Midnight!** and more

may venue information

12 Galaxies
2565 Mission Street, San Francisco

21 Grand
416 25th Street, Oakland [at Broadway]

artSF
110 Capp Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco [at 16th]
Black Gate Code 500

Artists Television Access
992 Valencia, San Francisco [at 21st]

Bluesix
3043 24th Street, San Francisco [at Treat]

Climate Theater
285 9th Street, San Francisco [at Folsom]

Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Intersection for the Arts
446 Valencia, San Francisco [btwn 15th & 16th]

Luggage Store Gallery
1007 Market Street, San Francisco [at 6th]

The MARSH
1062 Valencia, San Francisco [btwn 21st & 22nd]

Meridian Gallery
535 Powell Street, San Francisco

Mills College
5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland

Musicians Union Hall
116 9th Street, San Francisco [at Mission]

NOHspace
2840 Mariposa Street, San Francisco

Old First Church
1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco

Palace of Fine Arts
3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco [at Bay]

Phoenix Theatre
201 Washington Street, Petaluma

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th Street, Oakland [at Telegraph]

The Uptown
1928 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

Yoshi's San Francisco
1330 Fillmore Street, San Francisco

www.transbaycalendar.com

the persistent caveat Schedules are subject to change, and the reasons can be totally appalling, flying in the face of human reason. Please confirm details provided in this publication by visiting transbaycalendar.org.

Tuesday May 13

KFJC 89.7FM • 10:00am Free
**Applying The Principles Of The Jazz Dialectic:
An Aural History of the Vandermark 5**

Temescal Arts Center • 8pm \$5 nota
**First Tuesdays at Temescal
New Music Quartet** with Matt Bauder
(saxophones), Aram Shelton (saxophones),
Kurt Kotheimer (bass), Jordan Glenn
(percussion) and **Bran(...)**Pos!!!!!!!!!!!! solo
mayhem wtf?!

Wednesday May 14

Meridian Gallery • 8pm \$10 / \$5
Meridian Music: Composers in Performance
Tattoos and Other Markings by **Thea Farhadian**

Thursday May 15

Palace of Fine Arts • 7:30pm \$25-\$36
9th Annual SFJAZZ Spring Season
The Bad Plus; Doctor 3

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents New Music Series
8pm **'unknown white male'** bass clarinet, flutes
and saxes; 9pm **Animal Vegetable Television**
w/ Ron Chornow & Gary Schwantes

Saturday May 17

Artists' Television Access • \$8pm
Music, sound and moving image with **Potter-
Belmar Labs** and **noteNdo**

Phoenix Theatre • 8pm \$10
The Gomorran Social Aid & Pleasure Club
with the **Bluebellies** and **Or, the Whale**

Sunday May 18

Old First Church • 4pm \$15/12
Stefano Scodanibbio (contrabass) with
**Graeme Jennings, Erk Ullman, Ellen Rose,
Monica Scott, Christopher Jones, Ann Yi, and
sfSound.**

Wednesday May 21

The MARSH • 7:30pm \$10
Rova:Arts presents Improv:21
with **Scott Amendola**
Beats, Sounds, Sticks and Wires
moderated by **Derk Richardson**

Thursday May 22

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents New Music Series
8pm **fognozzle**
9pm **French Radio**, Jim Kaiser, Bruce Anderson
and Andy Way

21 Grand • 8:30pm \$6-10
Music and dance performance by Berlin dancer,
Yuko Kaseki and **Kanoko Nishi** (koto), with
sets by the **Wiener Kids and TrueCollapse**
(Charity Chan - accordion, Karl A.D. Evangelista
- guitars, Alexander Vittum: drums/percussion &
electronics).

Saturday May 24

21 Grand • 9pm \$3
Book Release Event for No Wave
by Marc Masters, with contributions by **Weasel
Walter**, featuring rare video documentation of
music performances of the period, and live music
by **Death Sentence: Panda!**

Sunday May 25

Noh Space • 3pm Free
Theatre of Yugen's Worklights
Wholly Joan with **Wayne Grim, Suki O'Kane**
and **Edward Schocker; Gusty Winds May Exist**
(Nancy Beckman, shakuhachi, Tom Bickley,
tenor recorder)

Tuesday May 27

21 Grand • 8:30pm \$6-10
**Suishou no Fune + Oaxacan + Lucio
Menegon/Rob Price/David Grollman**

Wednesday May 28

Yoshi's San Francisco • 8pm
Rovate 2008
The Rova / Nels Cline Celestial Septet
Nels Cline (electric guitar), Scott Amendola
(drums), Devin Hoff (bass), Bruce Ackley, Steve
Adams, Jon Raskin, Larry Ochs (saxophones)

Herbst Theatre • 8pm \$25-\$50
9th Annual SFJAZZ Spring Season
70th Birthday Celebration
Charles Lloyd New Quartet featuring Jason
Moran, Reuben Rogers, Eric Harland

Thursday May 29

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents New Music Series
8pm: **Charity Chan** (accordion) with **Travis
Johns** (electronics); 9pm: **Kristian Aspelin/
Damon Smith duo**

21 Grand • 9pm \$6-10
Music and media integrators, **Potter-Belmar
Labs** (Jason Jay Stevens and Leslie Raymond)
plus **Language Removal Systems** (Chris
Kubick)

sfSound presents:

compositions and improvisations by
Carl Ludwig Hübsch

May 6, 2008 : 8p : \$6-10
21 Grand : 416 25th : Oakland

with **Gino Robair,**
Heather Frasch, Kyle
Bruckmann, Matt Ingalls,
Jacob Lindsay, John
Ingle, Tom Dambly, John
Shiurba, Kjell Nordeson,
Alexa Beattie, Jorge
Boehringer, Monica
Scott, and Richard Worn

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