

the transbay

Creative Music Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2008

SEPTEMBER IS LOUSY WITH NEW MUSIC FESTIVALS WTF

up to the earballs

Winter in the Bay Area is nearly over, and to celebrate the warm, earthquake-potentiated five weeks of summer ahead, a startling Venn diagram of creative new music advocates have packed September's morning, noon and night with short-run festivals. Starting with the post-Labor Day **San Francisco Electronic Musical Festival (SFEMF)** (September 3-7), the nimble ear can move directly into the mid-month **Milk Bar International Live Film Festival** (September 12-14), and immediately round out with the **11th Annual Music for People & Thingamajigs Festival (MP&T)** (September 18-21). Attending the entire twelve performances guarantees all the thrills of an encyclopedic new music fun ride, very convenient if you are thinking of skipping the hard work of absorbing a diverse art form over time and, like so many Neos regaining consciousness with plugs in the backs of their heads, simply waking up knowing kung fu.

Where was I? O yeah: new music festivals. Unique to the Bay Area's conception of these is that the festival titles, which one would think would frame the work presented, are actually just springboards for interpretation. SFEMF *does* include electronic music, but the kind of electronic music that can be made by both Phil Niblock and Rutro and the Logs. *More cowbell.* The Milk Bar *is* a film festival, using that slightly larger definition of film that includes *music, performance, installation, the opening of Oakland's newest artist-owned*

cultural center, without omitting, thank jeeBus, *popcorn*. And it may be the strength of Thingamajigs that they own up with the collective catch-all noun in the festival name, but indeed every act, experimental, Appalachian, or deeply listened, incorporates made / found instruments and alternate tuning systems. Discovering the work in a butter knife, a long string, a speak-and-spell or hand forged electronics is all part of the experience.

The festival line-ups, often a beloved flashpoint for controversy, do not disappoint. The Bay Area return of Carl Stone, Pauline Oliveros (who plays both SFEMF and MP&T), Niblock and Richard Teitelbaum propels the ear across key decades of experimental music traditions. Their performances will take place in the tempering context of more recently-hatched rock stars, outliers, upstarts, and a healthy, and typically risky, dose of the artists who produce the festivals themselves.

The curatorial collectives did reel in sounds from other places and traditions, notably Iranian-American Ata Ebtekar at SFEMF and the Persian-tuned piano of Ramin Zoufonou on the last day of MP&T (arrive early and listen to him tuning the piano at the Oakland Museum). Milk Bar's tradition of international collaboration manifested this year with five commissions of Oakland-based contemporary/experimental music composers: Matthias Bossi, George Cremaschi, Evelyn Ficarra, Dan Plonsey, and Merlin

Coleman, to create and perform new music works for the festival in collaboration with other local and visiting experimental media/performance artists from Denmark, the UK, and Russia.

Happily, fuel surcharges have not been applied to local festival admission prices, and there are free events and installations peppered throughout the month (check the calendar inside this issue). *Do not leave the student ID behind*, and remember the time-honored strategy of volunteering can keep costs lower still, or free up funds for what may be a bit of heaven at the merch table, or the heavy pour at the bar.

The festivals also give an excuse for a compact tour of Bay Area performance geography: from the top of the Luggage Store stairs to the Fort Barry Gymnasium (with rumors of ad hoc MP&T performances throughout the Marin Headlands), from the rattling raisers of Project Artaud to the steps of the Oakland Museum, and from the newest venue in Oakland (the Noodle Factory Performing Arts Center in West Oakland) to the one with nine lives (21 Grand). Load up the BART ticket (or snag the car share) before you start out. It should be a very interesting month. ❖



"Short Films About Water," a collaboration between Ian Winters and Evelyn Ficarra to be performed at the Milkbar International Film Festival.

about this thing

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.

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"Bar Pieces" Christopher Fleegeer & Charles Engstrom perform at the San Francisco Electronic Music Festival

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

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Creative Music Calendar

Wednesday September 3

The Berkeley Hillside Club • 8pm \$15
Rova Saxophone Quartet

Project Artaud • 8pm
San Francisco Electronic Music Festival
Sharkface; SF Sound Group; Phil Niblock;
sound installations by **Jen Boyd, Clay Chaplin,**
and **Alex Potts**

Thursday September 4

Project Artaud • 8pm
San Francisco Electronic Music Festival
Way Sweeten, Edmund Campion (with Thomas
Buckner); Tujiko Noriko; sound installations by
Jen Boyd, Clay Chaplin, and Alex Potts

Friday September 5

Project Artaud • 8pm
San Francisco Electronic Music Festival
Myrmyr; Ata 'Sote' Ebtekar; Richard Teitelbaum;
sound installations by **Jen Boyd, Clay Chaplin,**
and **Alex Potts**

Saturday September 6

Project Artaud • 8pm
San Francisco Electronic Music Festival
Monique Buzzarté; Rutro and the Logs; Akira
Rabelais; sound installations by **Jen Boyd, Clay**
Chaplin, and Alex Potts

Sunday September 7

Project Artaud • 7pm
San Francisco Electronic Music Festival
Barpieces, Hans Fjellestad, Pauline Oliveros
and **Carl Stone;** pre-concert artist talk; sound
installations by **Jen Boyd, Clay Chaplin, and Alex**
Potts

Monday September 8

Yoshi's Oakland • 8pm \$14
An Evening with Mo'Fone!
CD Release of *Sling Shot* (Evander Music) with
Jeremy Steinkoler - drums, percussion; Larry De La
Cruz - saxophones, clarinet, flute, percussion; Jim
Peterson - saxophones, bass clarinet

Wednesday September 10

Mills College Lisser Hall • 7:30pm \$20 / free Mills
Toyoji's Song
Toyoji Tomita memorial concert and tree planting
with **Roscoe Mitchell, Pauline Oliveros, Stuart**
Dempster, Ione, Phillip Gelb, Shoko Hikage,
Wendy Burch, Marianne Tomita McDonald, Scot
Gresham Lancaster, Ron Heglin, Liz Allbee, Tom
Djil, Jen Baker, Tom Bickley, Cardew Choir,
Andy Strain and Didjeridu Ensemble

Thursday September 11

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents The New Music Series
8pm: **Pykrete** (Chuck Johnson - Electronics)
9pm: **+DOG+**

Friday September 12

21 Grand • 8pm \$10
Tom Heasley (Los Angeles, tuba) solo set
Stuart Dempster (Seattle, trombone) and **Eric**
Glick Rieman (Berkeley, prepared Rhodes electric
piano) in duo

Noodle Factory • 5:30pm & 8pm
2008 Milkbar International Live Film Festival

Saturday September 13

ArtSF • Noon \$donation
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+DOG+ VSLS ZacharyJamesWatkins aka N*****
= **Nibbles Mr. Cluck**

Noodle Factory • 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 8pm
2008 Milkbar International Live Film Festival

Sunday September 14

Musicians' Union Hall • 7:30pm \$10/\$8
Outsound Presents...The SIMM Series
Sound Projections
7:30pm **Lords of Outland** featuring a dv film by **CJ**
Borosque
8:30pm **Moxibustion** with **Charles Kremenak** live
projection

annual festival

musicforpeople
andthingamajigs
sept 18-21, 2008

Chris Brown
The Crank Ensemble
Tom Djil
Tom Duff
Ellen Fullman
William Allaudin Mathieu
Lisa Sangita Moscow
The Norman Conquest
Pauline Oliveros
Jesse Olsen
Stewart Port
Ian Power
Theresa Wong
Edward Schocker
Saul Stokes
Toychestra
Ramin Zoufonoun

Noodle Factory • 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 8pm
2008 Milkbar International Live Film Festival

ODC Dance Commons • 8pm \$5
sfSoundSeries

Morton Feldman's 80+ minute composition For John Cage (1982) performed by violinist **Graeme Jennings**, and pianist **Christopher Jones**

Monday September 15

Kingman's Ivy Room • 9pm free!
Improv/Noise Hootenanny & Social Club
Lucio Menegon + featured ensemble **Ross Hammond, Phillip Greenlief** and **John Hanes** and many others, such as yourself. Comfy couches, low lighting, weird music. On the spot collaborations encouraged.

Tuesday September 16

Uptown • 9pm free
Aram Shelton and friends

Wednesday September 17

Meridian Gallery • 7:30pm \$10 / \$5
Meridian Music: Composers in Performance present the **Cornelius Cardew Choir**. Program includes Tom Bickley's "When Adam Delved and Eve Span," Bob Marsh's "Political Composition No. 1," Joe Zitt's "Inaugural (Three Plus Three, Version 2)" and a new Bob Marsh work.

Thursday September 18

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents The New Music Series
The 11th Annual Music For People & Thingamajigs Festival
Chris Brown, Stewart Port, Norman Conquest

Friday September 19

21 Grand • 8pm \$10-15 sliding scale
11th Annual Music for People and Thingamajigs Festival
Jesse Olsen, Pauline Oliveros, Ian Power, and Tom Djill.

Saturday September 20

Headlands Center for the Arts • 1pm free
11th Annual Music for People and Thingamajigs Festival
Ellen Fullman with **Theresa Wong, William Allaudin Mathieu** and **Edward Schocker**; and **Tom Duff's** construction for Music on (several) Long Thin Wire(s)

Trinity Chapel • 8pm \$12/\$8
Grosse Abfahrt with Fred Frith and Chris Brown

Sunday September 21

Oakland Museum of California • 1pm free with Museum admission
11th Annual Music for People and Thingamajigs Festival
Toychestra, Saul Stokes, Larnie Foxe's Crank Ensemble, Ramin Zoufonoun, and Lisa Sangita Moskow with **Tom Nunn** (in duo.)

Wednesday September 24

Meridian Gallery • 7:30pm \$10 / \$5
Hafez Modirzadeh and **Saed Muhssin** (saxophone and oud).

Thursday September 25

Luggage Store Gallery • 8pm \$6-10
Outsound Presents The New Music Series
Cartoon Justice (including the first results of an evolving visual system of kinetic ambient fiction); **Jen Baker** (trombone) + **Lisa Mezzacappa** (bass) + **John Hanes** (electronics); **Kaylee Combs**

Friday September 26

Yoshi's Oakland • 8pm
Dave Holland Sextet [through Sun Sept 28]
Oakland Museum of California • 5:30pm free
The Lost Trio in the Outdoor Gardens for the benefit of Girls Inc.

venue information

21 Grand

416 25th Street, Oakland [at Broadway]

artSF

110 Capp Street, San Francisco [at 16th]

The Berkeley Hillside Club

2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley [at Spruce]

Headlands Center for the Arts

944 Fort Barry, Sausalito

Kingman's Ivy Room

860 San Pablo Avenue, Albany [near Solano]

Luggage Store Gallery

1007 Market Street, San Francisco [at 6th]

Meridian Gallery

535 Powell Street, San Francisco

Mills College Lisser Hall

5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland

Musicians' Union Hall

116 9th Street, San Francisco [at Mission]

The Noodle Factory

1266 26th Street, Oakland [at Union]

Oakland Museum of California

1000 Oak Street, Oakland

ODC Dance Commons

351 Shotwell, San Francisco

Project Artaud Theatre

450 Florida Street, San Francisco

Trinity Chapel

2320 Dana Street, Berkeley [at Durant]

The Uptown

1928 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

Yoshi's Oakland

510 Embarcadero, Oakland



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wed-sat 8 pm, sun 7pm

monique buzzarté
edmund campion with thomas buckner
ata ebtakar • hans fjellestad • christopher fleeger
myrmyr • phill niblock • tujiko noriko
pauline oliveros and carl stone • akira rabelais
sfsoundgroup • rutro & the logs • sharkiface
ray sweeten • richard teitelbaum

project artaud theater

450 florida st • sf

advance tickets at www.sfmfmf.org

deadline for october issue is

sept 10

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san francisco

electronic
music festival
2008