



article continued from front

damon smith's list ... and we're not even talking about experimental rock, punk, and noise bands that have enjoyed similar assistance.

so, here we go again - artists in search of space and critical attention. beleaguered, underpaid, overlooked, we sport many hats in order to make things happen. we book our own gigs, promote our work, compose, rehearse, perform, record, and distribute our work - we are forced to write about it in rags that are operated by artists - and we continue to create beautiful and richly satisfying work that moves forward the future of music and the arts - work that not only populates and influences this family of ours, but has an impact on the world of improvised music, contemporary composition, and other aspects of the performing and visual arts community here and beyond.

we desperately need a space to fill the gaping hole left by the closing of 21 grand. think - discuss - organize - do what you have to do, but the community needs to step up to the plate and deal with this problem.

in closing - on behalf of myself and the community at large, i would like to sincerely offer my deepest respect and gratitude to darren jenkins and sarah lockhart (and their board of directors and associated friends and family) for their enormous service to the bay area creative arts scene over the past decade. nothing would be the same today without your inspired and tireless efforts. •

pgsaxo@pacbell.net

## May 2011

### 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. Contact us for a free subscription.

### Volunteers needed right away!

The Transbay needs editorial and production staff, perhaps combined in the same person. If you have writing and digital print skills, please contact us at [mail@transbaycalendar.org](mailto:mail@transbaycalendar.org).

### Please support this work!

Your kind donations help keep the Transbay alive and growing. Please send checks [payable to "Transbay Music Calendar"] to:

Transbay Accounting  
106 Fairmount Avenue  
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[www.transbaycalendar.org](http://www.transbaycalendar.org)



## do not go gently into the absence of that 21 grand night

ARTICLE BY PHILLIP GREENLIEF

time moves quickly - it has been a few months since darren jenkins and sarah lockhart closed the doors on 21 grand, one of the most important DIY art spaces to offer live performance and visual arts in the san francisco bay area community. a few people wondered if it might be a good thing to say a few words on the subject of: their farewell, art spaces in general, and the mercurial nature of having a room of one's own for those who seek to probe, question, present, ponder, communicate, shout, shake and instruct in creative ways.

nothing has happened.

that makes me want to say all sorts of things, but since space and time (yours and mine) are short, i'll cut to the chase.

i can not sum up easily how important 21 grand was to my personal development as a musician, nor can i sum up what an important resource it has been to the community at large. while there are a variety of spaces still running and going strong - the luggage store gallery (our longest-running new music performance series), the simm series, meridian gallery, 1510 performance space, the lab, tom's place, the totally intense fractal mindgaze hut, and other grass roots venues and non-profit spaces - 21 grand was able to cater to a wide range of performance and visual artists. it was open 7 days a week, and you could propose just about any type of project and likely get a quick and positive response. it was artist-run, and you didn't have to discuss how many people would be purchasing alcohol at your show - and if the art or the music got weird and strayed from the mainstream - all the better.

jenkins and lockhart formed a board of directors, initiated numerous fundraising drives, offered occasional stipends for collaboration, and housed numerous community events like the always epic skronkathon bar-b-q, the matthew sperry festival (which raised thousands of dollars for the surviving family of that outstanding creative musician), countless live shows, film screenings, workshops, rehearsals, and even swap-meets that benefited artists, and the venue itself.

it seems like it should be a given to keep something going that is so valuable for maintaining the creative principals that have made the left coast a place for experimentation and innovation for many decades. if the theory of supply and demand works, the activities listed

above easily articulates the demand for such a venue. the bay area arts community had a bad bout with the iron fist of capitalism in the years preceding and directly following 2000 when the dot.com boom threatened to eliminate the majority of art spaces in san francisco, but 21 grand rose out of the vacuum that was created by that cultural catastrophe. since so many artists were run out of their lofts and dwellings in san francisco during this period, jenkins' and lockhart's haven for newly transplanted east bay artists (and long-term residents) became the one of the decade's prime showcases for creative activity.

in addition to serving the local scene, 21 grand was crucial in serving countless other west coast players, in addition to fostering creative collaborations with artists from japan, australia, europe, chicago, new york, et. al.

clearly the need for such a space still exists - the numerous remaining venues do not quite fill the particular void that was created when 21 grand closed its doors. but who will step up to make such a thing happen?

the mega organizations in the bay area arts scene are not interested in presenting work by innovative and creative local artists. i know that's a bold statement, but look at the stats: sfjazz - yerba buena center for the arts - intersection for the arts - sfmoma - cal performances ... when is the last time any of these organizations have gone out of their way to offer any significant funding for the artists that have presented at 21 grand over the past decade? national acts, for example, can receive funding in the 5-figure bracket (\$10 - \$40K or more for a concert) from an organization like sfjazz, while locals are offered 3 to 4 -figure artist fees on the average (more often than not, the fee is less than \$1K).

on a related note, when in recent times has the san francisco chronicle, the oakland tribune, or the east bay express offered any real thought-provoking criticism of these artists? the dot.com boom eliminated a lot of local support from journalists - not because they were no longer interested in writing about the scene, but because the policies that govern those publications eliminated coverage and preview articles for spaces that do not advertise in said publications. numerous arts journalists went hungry right along with the rest of us, but hey, it's cool - a whole new breed of corporate jour-

nalists have taken their place, and for the most part, no one really notices (and even fewer are willing to mention it).

the mainstream will tell you that if bay area artists can't produce art that can garner larger financial gains - in terms of ticket or record sales - then they do not capture the hearts and minds of the crowds that populate the events presented at the agencies listed above. but nevertheless, bay area artists continue to receive critical acclaim, radio airplay and well-funded performances at festivals around the globe. and yet it is nearly impossible for us to secure a gig at any one of the big local festivals that cater to a roster of internationally touring artists (and secure a "mainstage" status).

the thing is, this not only effects the local scene as a community, it limits our ability to collaborate with musicians from beyond the local fog bank. numerous internationally recognized artists were turned away by yoshi's, sfjazz, and other agencies throughout the last decade that were routinely welcomed by the staff at 21 grand over the past decade.

since name-dropping is the one thing that seems to consistently turn heads, i will take the bait and offer some unabashed crowd-pleasing.

here is a list of musicians that i helped (while working with others, of course) to secure gigs for those that would not have played in the bay area (on numerous occasions) if not for 21grand: frank gratkowski (koln/berlin), tom rainey, tony malaby, mark helias, angelica sanchez, ralph allesi, ken filiano, adam levy, mary halvorsen, jessica pavonne (all nyc) joelle leandre (france), gebhardt ullmann's clarinet trio (berlin), jeff parker (chicago), trevor dunn (humboldt!), nels cline, alex cline, g.e. stinson, vinny golia, jeremy drake, bonnie barnett, michael vlatkovich, dottie grossman, empty cage quartet (LA), ignaz schick, michael griener (berlin), carl ludwig hubsch (koln), christian weber, hermann buhler (zurich), paolo angeli (sardinia/barcelona), jorrit dijkstra (netherlands/boston), harris eisenstadt (LA/NYC), gregg moore (world citizen), toshi makihara, tatsuya nakitani (japan/PA), jack wright (PA), billy mintz (neptune), michael vatcher (humboldt/amsterdam), and more.

and that's just me ... think of how many people you'd get if you just added gino robair and

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# the transbay

## Creative Music Calendar

### Sunday May 1

SIMM Series • 7:30pm \$10/8  
7:30pm: Patrick Wolff - tenor sax, alto sax, clarinet, compositions / Kris Strom - tenor sax, clarinet / Erik Jekabsen - trumpet, flugelhorn / Adam Shulman - piano / John Wiitala - bass / Hamir Atwal - drums  
8:30pm  
Noertker's Moxie Trio: Annelise Zamula - tenor sax, flute / Jenny Maybee - piano / Bill Noertker - contrabass, compositions

### Monday May 2

Makeout Room • 8pm free  
**The Monday Makeout Presents:**  
LORDS OF OUTLAND  
ERIC GARLAND's HODGE PODGE ENSEMBLE  
MYLES BOISEN TRIO

### Wednesday May 4

NOHSpace • 7pm \$18 in advance, \$20 @ the door  
**Cordelia** is a world premiere play by Erik Ehn, brought to life by Theatre of Yugen. This intimate echo of Shakespeare's King Lear from Cordelia's point of view is informed by the Japanese Noh "phantasmal warrior" play. Featuring music by Suki O'Kane, performed by Polly Moller and Anna Wray.

### Thursday May 5

NOHSpace • 7pm \$18 in advance, \$20 @ the door  
**Cordelia** - see 5/4

Dinkelspiel Auditorium • 8pm \$10-\$50  
Memory and personal experience are the touchstones of SLIDE, a new concert-length music/theater work by composer Steve Mackey and director/singer/actor Rinde Eckert, receiving its Bay Area premiere. These two frequent collaborators will be joined onstage by the Grammy-winning ensemble eighth blackbird, for whom this work was created. There will also be a post-performance discussion with Mackey, Eckert and Stanford Lively Arts' Artistic and Executive Director, Jenny Bilfield.

Luggage Store New Music Series • 8pm \$6-10  
**Grains/Living Earth/Nonsemble 6**  
performing a series of short combined and individual sets crossing punk band, free-improv, and experimental music

### Friday May 6

sfSoundRadio [Live Fridays!] • 3pm  
**Canner MEFE**

Explorist International • 7pm free  
Free Jazz Fridays open jam. bring an instrument. small amps only.

Sult (Oslo/San Francisco) Jacob Felix Heule, percussion; Tony Dryer, contrabass + undercover norwegian on contrabass, guitar, voice.

Randylee Sutherland group

### Friday May 6

NOHSpace • 8pm \$18 in advance, \$20 @ the door  
**Cordelia** - see 5/4

Bird & Beckett Books and Records • 8:30pm free  
Poet ruth weiss, who was a key poet involved in the inception of the jazz/poetry improvisations of 1950s North Beach, reads in an interplay with sax player Steven Faivus, bassist Doug O'Connor and drummer Hal Davis to launch her book "Can't Stop the Beat: The Life and Words of a Beat Poet".

### Saturday May 7

KFJC 89.7 FM [Radio Broadcast] • 3pm  
3pm-6pm "Zum Thing Special" a spotlight on the local Zum label.

KFJC 89.7 FM [Radio Broadcast] • 6pm  
6pm to midnight "We Love You, You Big Dummy" - Part 1  
Tribute to Captain Beefheart and The Magic Band

NOHSpace • 8pm \$18 in advance, \$20 @ the door  
**Cordelia** - see 5/4

Life Changing Ministry • 9pm donation  
\* electro-acoustic improv trio from Oslo, Norway  
\* electric Wormses (Bobby Adams, Tony Dryer, Jacob Felix Heule)  
+tba

### Sunday May 8

KFJC 89.7 FM [Radio Broadcast] • 3pm  
3pm-10pm "We Love You, You Big Dummy" - Part 2  
Tribute to Captain Beefheart and The Magic Band

Studio 1510 • 5pm \$5-10  
Drunken Fish - Words & Sounds: C.J. Reaven  
Borosque & Jim Ryan /// Tri-Cornered Tent Show: Philip Everett, Ray Schaffer, Raymond Flores ///  
Forward Energy - Freestyle Jazz with Jim Ryan sax  
flute trumpet, Rent Romus saxes, Scott R. Looney piano, Eric Marshall dbass, Timothy Orr drums

### Monday May 9

Studio 1510 • 8pm donation  
Sult (Oslo/San Francisco) -- Jacob Felix Heule, Tony Dryer, +tba  
+tba

### Tuesday May 10

Tuesdays at Tom's Place • 7:30pm donation  
**2nd Anniversary Concert:** Tim Perkis/John Bischoff/James Fei trio and John Shiurba 5x5 w. Monica Scott, ma++ ingalls, Cory Wright, Gino Robair.

### Thursday May 12

Luggage Store New Music Series • 8pm \$6-10  
8:00pm Lutra Lutra Lauren Cameron Klein, Sarah Elena Palmer, Agnes Szelag Stephanie Hartono, Lily Taylor, Danishta Rivero, Nora Toomey  
All female choir tackles Vocal sound sculpture  
9:00pm Female Noise - Blacahillary, Sayaka Starlite and Glenda Solis  
will seduce you right out of your chastity belts

### Friday May 13

Berkeley City Club • 8pm \$10-30  
Volti wraps up its 32nd season with an eclectic program of the new and the newer. Program: Elliott Gyger [new work] (2011 Volti Commission, World Premiere); Matthew Barnson [new work] (2011 Volti CAL Commission, World Premiere); Alvin Singleton/Gospel (1998); Yu-Hui Chang/Two Collins Songs (2009 Volti Commission); Frank Ferko/O ignis Spiritus Paracliti (1993); and Ruby Fulton/The Ballad of James Parry (2008 Volti Commission).

### Saturday May 14

Tuesdays at Tom's Place • 7:30pm donation  
Alessandro Cortini (elec) w Gino Robair(elec, perc) and Phillip Greenlief (sax), and multi-channel fixed media works.

Memorial Auditorium • 8pm \$10-68  
The Gurs Zyklus: Trimpin; Rinde Eckert, director. Combining live performance with kinetic sculpture, the world premiere of The Gurs Zyklus ("Gurs Cycle") represents the fruits of a lifetime of curiosity, investigation, inspired tinkering, and riveting invention on the part of Trimpin, the brilliant artist of one name and no definable genre.

First Lutheran Church • 8pm \$10-30  
Volti - see 5/13

### Sunday May 15

Walt Disney Family Museum • 4pm \$15-20  
Volti - see 5/13

**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](http://transbaycalendar.org).

### Monday May 16

NOHspace • 8pm \$10/\$8 at the Door  
8pm The Deconstruction of What You Know – Josh Allen, Timothy Orr, William Winant, and Henry Kaiser  
9pm "EDGE OF DARK" compositions and improvisations inspired by the writings of Frank Herbert's visions, Phil K. Dick's rantings and H.P. Lovecraft's darkest fears  
A CD release set by the Lords of Outland featuring multi-instrumentalist Vinny Golia, Rent Romus, CJ Borosque, Ray Schaeffer, & Philip Everett

### Wednesday May 18

Subterranean Arthouse • 9:15pm  
Seattle based drum and saxophone duo Bad Luck uses live loops and pedals as a fundamental part of their compositional and improvisational approach. Awarded the "Best Outside Jazz Group" of 2009 by Earshot Magazine, the fierce duo has set out to captivate audiences on their first west coast tour in support of their second record 'Two', released by the new Seattle record label Table & Chairs (<http://www.tableandchairsmusic.com>).

### Thursday May 19

Luggage Store New Music Series • 8pm \$6-10  
**Full Moon Concerts: Flower Moon**  
8:00pm Brian Pear (Drew Ceccato, Carson Whitley, Evan Adams) -- analog wind synth, labtop, modular synth and spatializer w/ live video  
8:45pm Alex Christie -- Laptop w/ live video  
9:15pm Bad Luck - Neil Welch saxophones, live loops and pedals, Chris Icasiano, drums, cymbals  
In celebration of their long-awaited second release Two on Seattle's new music record label Table & Chairs

### Sunday May 22

SIMM Series • 7:30pm \$10/\$8  
7:30PM TBA  
8:30PM REMN Quartet  
Rent Romus, Karl Alfonso Evangelista, Dave Mihaly, Bill Noertker

### Thursday May 26

Luggage Store New Music Series • 8pm \$6-10  
8:00pm Daniel Steffey CD release set of Chloros  
8:30pm White Pee  
9:10pm Alexander Vogel/Moe! Staiano duo

## venue information

### Bird & Beckett Books and Records

653 Chenery Street, San Francisco

### Berkeley City Club

2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley

### CNMAT

1750 Arch Street, Berkeley

### Dinkelspiel Auditorium

471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford,

### Explorist International

3174 24th Street, San Francisco

### First Lutheran Church

600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

### Life Changing Ministry

1629 8th Street, Oakland

### Luggage Store Gallery

1007 Market Street, San Francisco [at 6th]

### Makeout Room

22nd Street, San Francisco [at Mission]

### Mama Buzz Cafe

2318 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland [at 23rd]

### Memorial Auditorium

551 Serra Mall, Stanford

### Meridian Gallery

535 Powell Street, San Francisco

### Mills College

5000 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland

### Musicians Union Hall

116 9th Street, San Francisco [at Mission]

### NOHSpace

2840 Mariposa Street, San Francisco between Florida and Alabama]

### Old First Church

1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco

### San Francisco Conservatory of Music

50 Oak Street, San Francisco

### San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 Third Street, San Francisco

### Studio 1510

1510 8th Street, Oakland

### Subterranean Arthouse

2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

### Tom's Place

3111 Deakin Street, Berkeley

### Walt Disney Family Museum

104 Montgomery Street. San Francisco

## Outsound Presents & Luggage Store Gallery co-curate

### LSG New Music Series

1007 Market St. 3rd Floor  
@ 6th Street  
San Francisco Ca

### Thursday, May 5 2011 8:00 PM

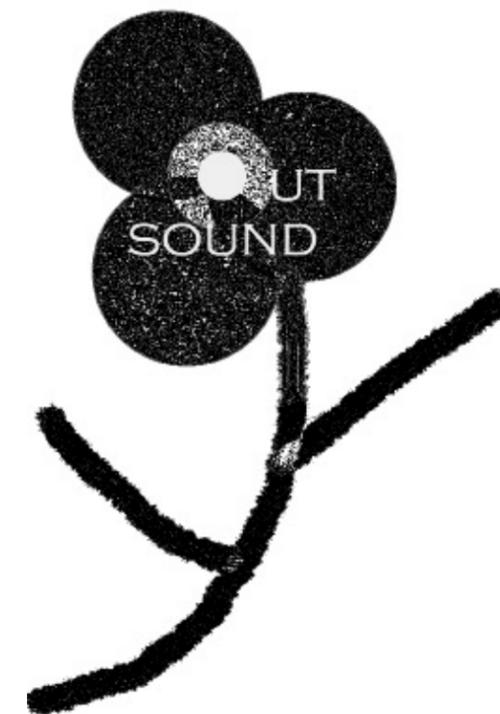
Grains/Living Earth/Nonsemble 6  
performing a series of short combined and individual sets crossing punk band, free-improv, and experimental music

### Thursday, May 12 2011 8:00 PM

8:00pm Lutra Lutra  
Lauren Cameron Klein, Sarah Elena Palmer, Agnes Szelag  
Stephanie Hartono, Lily Taylor, Danishta Rivero, Nora Toomey  
All female choir tackles Vocal sound sculpture  
9:00pm Female Noise - Blacahillary, Sayaka Starlite and Glenda Solis

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8:45pm Alex Christie -- Laptop w/ live video  
9:15pm Bad Luck - Neil Welch saxophones, live loops and pedals



### Thursday, May 26 2011 8:00 PM

8:00pm Daniel Steffey CD release set of Chloros  
8:30pm White Pee  
9:10pm Alexander Vogel/Moe! Staiano duo

[www.outsound.org](http://www.outsound.org)

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