



vancouver new music

For immediate release

2 October 2007

VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2007

GUITARS! GUITARS!

1 stage. 4 days. 108 strings.*

* give or take a dozen.

17-20 October 2007

Show starts 8pm each night

Artist panels 7:15 – 7:45pm each night

Scotiabank Dance Centre

677 Davie Street

Tickets \$15/\$10 each night, available at Scratch, Zulu Records, Tickets Tonight (604.231.7535 or www.ticketstonight.ca) and the door.

Passes for all 4 nights \$50/\$30, available at the door or by calling 604.633.0861.

For 2007, the Vancouver New Music Festival assembles an international conglomerate of some of the most innovative voices in guitar music today. From indie to abstract, acoustic to outlandish, *Guitars! Guitars!* will bring to your city a plethora of guitarists currently working to define or transcend their own respective performance tradition. 16 guitarists. 1 stage. Overkill? We think not.

Featuring performances by Oren Ambarchi (Australia), Paolo Angeli (Italy), Sir Richard Bishop (USA), Nicolas Bragg (Van), Bernard Falaise (Mtl), Bill Frisell (USA), Gord Grdina (Van), Her Jazz Noise Collective (Van), Annette Krebs (Germany), Rene Lussier (Mtl), Donald Miller (USA), James Plotkin (USA), Keith Rowe (UK), Tony Wilson (Van) and Walter Zanetti (Italy).

Full schedule and details follow:

October 17 2007

Gord Grdina (Vancouver) – 8pm

A blend of the intensity of John McLaughlin and the linear phrasing of Joe Morris, with a bit of John Zorn attitude thrown in for good measure. - Coda

Gord Grdina is a Vancouver-based guitarist and oud player whose unique sound combines jazz, free-form improvisation and Arabic classical music. Grdina is a protégé of jazz great Gary Peacock, a pillar of Vancouver's jazz and world music scenes and a member of Box Cutter, East Van Strings, Sangha, Maqam, Loose Acoustic and Think Like the Waves.

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Nicolas Bragg (Vancouver) – 9pm

Here performing *The Burial of Count Orgaz*, Nicolas Bragg has been a familiar face in Vancouver's music circles since 1991. He's been involved in projects with Blaise Pascal, Citroen, The Bellerophonic Letter, The Countless Jibes and veterans of the Vancouver indie-rock scene Destroyer.

Oren Ambarchi (Australia) – 10pm

Ambarchi does an amazing job of drawing the casual listener deep into his atmospheric world with a meditative intimacy that does a lot with so little. Minimalism at its most sublime. - Raf Katigbak

Oren Ambarchi treats listeners to his unmistakable style of delicately nuanced minimalism. His intimate, in-depth exploration of harmonics and resonance have led him to define serene spaces of fluid, shifting sound that is both fragile and physical.

Bill Frisell (USA) – 11pm

Bill Frisell is the Clark Kent of the electric guitar. Soft-spoken and self-effacing in conversation, he apparently breathes in lungfuls of raw fire when he straps on his guitar. - Spin

Always anything but typical, guitarist, composer, band-leader and "jazz Renegade" Bill Frisell is well known as a purveyor of a unique sound that is both recognizable and uncategorizable. Over the years Frisell has lent his chameleon-like versatility to collaborations with John Zorn, Elvis Costello, Suzanne Vega, Rinde Eckert, Brian Eno and John Scofield just to name a few.

October 18

Her Jazz Noise Collective (Vancouver) – 8pm

Her Jazz Noise Collective is an experimental music network for women in Vancouver. We are hell bent on creating an inclusive community and supportive space for women to meet and experiment musically. We hope this project will be a catalyst for the formation of more female-based groups in this genre! This is not a band, it's the beginning of a radical community. Our lineup for this show features members from The Choir Practice, Shearing Pinx, In Flux, Self Help, The Internet!

Tony Wilson (Vancouver) – 10pm

... unquestionably one of the most original guitar stylists on the Canadian scene. – Coastal Jazz and Blues

A mainstay in Vancouver's vibrant jazz community, Tony Wilson has performed as a soloist and with numerous ensembles including the Tony Wilson Sextet, Tony Wilson Quintet, and the Peggy Lee Band. Drawing on the rich history of jazz and blues, Wilson carves a unique musical space for himself.

Sir Richard Bishop (USA) – 9pm

Sir Richard Bishop forces one to alter that hoary cliché to 'jack of all trades, master of... damn near all'. – Foxy Digitalis

Most well known as a founding member of ethno-improv pioneers Sun City Girls, Sir Richard Bishop has spent the last 26 years perplexing, amazing and alienating audiences. Citing Django Reinhardt, Jimmy Page and Ravi Shankar as amongst his primary influences, Sir Bishop's guitar explorations often reflect the shadow worlds of India, the Middle East and other points along the Gypsy trail.

October 19

Bernard Falaise (Montréal) – 8pm

His distinctive guitar style, at times raw and twangy, at others highly atmospheric, set him apart...

– All-Music Guide

A cornerstone of Montreal's free-improv scene, Bernard Falaise – a member of Miriodor, Klaxon Gueule, les Projectionnistes, Diesel, among others – returns to Vancouver for a solo performance. Defying categorization, Falaise explores acid rock, twelve-tone waltzes and industrial tangos with equal enthusiasm.

Donald Miller (USA) – 9pm

His is a sustained ... and defiant examination of the noise particles inherent in a magnetic field. –

Cadence

Having entered New York City's budding free-improv scene in 1976 with a "sense of vengeance", Donald Miller has remained a noisy presence in experimental music ever since. A founding member of the volume-obsessed Borbetomagus, Miller's legendarily aggressive guitar style infuses subtle layers into the wall of noise.

Keith Rowe (UK) – 10pm

Rowe is also a painter, and it is not fanciful to hear this music as painting with sound... or maybe sculpting with sound. – Dusted

One of the most influential experimental guitarists of our time, and co-founding member of groundbreaking ensemble AMM, Keith Rowe laid the foundations for a new way of approaching the instrument. In reaction to the limitations imposed by the 'jazz context' of the 1960s, Rowe developed various prepared guitar techniques, employing objects such as a library card, rubber eraser, springs, hand-held electric fans, alligator clips, and common office supplies with immeasurable influence on generations of experimental musicians to come.

James Plotkin (USA) – 11pm

A longstanding figure at the nexus of extreme and marginal music, James Plotkin has moved from high impact metal through experimental noise and tingling, metallic ambience. He has worked with Scorn, K.K. Null, John Zorn, Flux, and more recently the disjointed ambience of Lotus Eaters, his own beat-mangling Phantomasher project, and the sludge-metal supergroup Khanate.

October 20

Annette Krebs (Germany) – 8pm

Krebs belongs in a category of those musicians who have expanded the concept of improvisation beyond Free Jazz, Post-Serialism or the 'English School' – Grob (notes)

Annette Krebs inhabits the crossover area between improvisation and composition, using an array of contact mics and amplification to coax unusual sonic-textures from her instrument. Krebs has become well-known for exploring the possibilities of the prepared guitar with regard to sound, structure, noise, the mixing of materials, and space.

Paolo Angeli (Italy) – 9pm

Always unorthodox and innovative, composer, instrument builder and virtuoso Paolo Angeli's music uniquely blends avant-garde improvisation with complex folk and classical techniques. Playing a Sardinian guitar modified and prepared with, among other things, a giant mechanical claw on its side, Angeli's instrument becomes a hybrid between guitar, drums and violoncello.

Walter Zanetti (Italy) – 10pm

Zanetti's repertoire spans the canonical to the contemporary, often incorporating electronic elements and creative improvisation. He has become recognized as one of Italy's earliest and foremost advocates of repertoire for electric guitar, championing works by composers such as Steve Reich and Steven Mackey.

René Lussier (Montreal) – 11pm

... a folklorist hell-bent on experimentation; a vanguard artist with a working-class sensibility... – Ear

Guitarist, percussionist, bass clarinetist and singer René Lussier is one of the pillars of innovative music in Quebec. A passionate improviser and prolific and eclectic composer, he has been charting new music territories since the end of the 1970s, teaming up with musicians from all fields including Fred Frith, Chris Cutler, Jean Derome and Robert M. Lepage.

Tickets for each night are \$15 regular, \$10 students/seniors and are available at Zulu Records, Tickets Tonight (604.231.7535 or www.ticketstonight.ca) and the door. Passes for all 4 nights \$50/\$30, available at the door or by calling 604.633.0861.

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