

For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *A Power Stronger Than Itself:*
A Celebration of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians
Curated by **George E. Lewis** and **Christopher McIntyre****

**Two evenings of music, October 9 and 11, will include performances by
Nicole Mitchell, Amina Claudine Myers, Muhal Richard Abrams,
Matana Roberts, Craig Taborn, Chad Taylor and Wet Ink**

**Panel discussion moderated by Christopher McIntyre and
Book signing with George E. Lewis will take place prior to the October 11 concert**

New York, NY, September 11, 2008—In conjunction with the recent publication of **George E. Lewis's** book, *A Power Stronger Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental Music* (University of Chicago Press, 2008), **The Kitchen** presents *A Power Stronger Than Itself: A Celebration of the AACM*, **Thursday and Saturday, October 9 and 11**. The Kitchen and Lewis—a composer, musician, former Kitchen music curator and long-time AACM member—will host two evenings of performances paying tribute to the seminal music collective, which has reconfigured the trajectory of music-making through its devotion to furthering artistic experimentation and its forward-thinking approach to composition, performance, improvisation and collectivity. The first concert, on Thursday, October 9, will feature **Muhal Richard Abrams, Amina Claudine Myers** and the ensemble **Wet Ink** performing the works of AACM composers. The second, on Saturday, October 11, will feature **Nicole Mitchell, Matana Roberts, Craig Taborn, Chad Taylor** and **Wet Ink**. Both concerts will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10. Prior to the October 11 event, **Christopher McIntyre** will moderate a free, 5:00 P.M. panel discussion followed by a book signing with Lewis.

Founded in 1965 on the South Side of Chicago, the AACM has remained a singular force in supporting, performing, and recording serious, original music. A collective of exceptionally dynamic artists formed the organization to meet their emergent needs to expose and showcase original compositions, and to create an outlet for the development and performance of their music. Many of its members are now considered visionaries in the history of American music: the Art Ensemble of Chicago, Anthony Braxton, Henry Threadgill and Lester Bowie, to name a few.

The concerts at The Kitchen will bring together a cross-generational variety of artists, performing works by AACM composers. Some of the performers are founding and early members of the collective, including the pianists Amina Claudine Myers and Muhal Richard Abrams (duo piano). Others, like the flutist and AACM Chicago Chapter Co-President Nicole Mitchell, and the New York-based saxophonist Matana Roberts, joined the AACM more recently. Still others are New York-based artists who are not affiliated but nonetheless make music in the spirit of the collective's diversity, such as the piano/organ/synthesizer player Craig Taborn, the drummer Chad Taylor and the contemporary music ensemble Wet Ink.

The panel discussion moderated by **Christopher McIntyre** on the afternoon of October 11 will include Lewis, Myers, Roberts, and Mitchell as well as writers **Brent Hayes Edwards, Ted Panken, and Howard Mandel**. It will conclude with a book signing by Lewis.

The events at The Kitchen bookend a Friday evening concert of the music of **Oliver Lake** and **Reggie Nicholson** on **Friday, October 10, 8:00 P.M.** at the **Community Church of New York** (40 East 35th Street). The event is sponsored by the AACM New York Chapter, Inc. For more information, please visit

About the Curators

George E. Lewis serves as the Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music, and the Director of the Center for Jazz Studies, at Columbia University. The recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship in 2002, an Alpert Award in the Arts in 1999, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Lewis studied composition with Muhal Richard Abrams at the AACM School of Music, as well as studying trombone with Dean Hey. Lewis has been a member of the AACM since 1971. His work as composer, improviser, performer and interpreter explores electronic and computer music, computer-based multimedia installations, text-sound works and notated and improvisational forms, and is documented on more than 120 recordings. His published articles on music, experimental video, visual art and cultural studies have appeared in numerous scholarly journals and edited volumes.

Christopher McIntyre is a performer, composer and curator/producer. He interprets and improvises on trombone and synthesizer in projects including TILT Brass Band and SIXtet, Ne(x)tworks, 7X7 Trombone Band and Lotet. His compositions typically include conceptual elements such as spatialization, recontextualized notated material and gradually shifting aural tableaux. McIntyre is also active as a curator and concert producer. He is currently Artistic Director of the MATA Festival, with independent projects at venues including The Kitchen (*Let's Go Swimming: A Tribute to Arthur Russell, New Sound New York*), Issue Project Room, and The Stone (June 2007). Visit cmcintyre.com for more info.

About the Artists

Muhai Richard Abrams, a world-renowned pianist and composer, has been at the forefront of contemporary music for the past 35 years. As a result of years of observation, analysis and practice as a performing musician, Abrams has developed a command of many musical styles. He is a co-founder of the AACM, founder of the AACM School of Music, and president of the AACM New York City Chapter. In 1990, Abrams was the first recipient of the grand international jazz award, The JazzPar Prize, awarded by the Danish Jazz Center in Copenhagen. In addition to his many jazz recordings, which feature a variety of ensembles and musical approaches, Abrams has also written works for symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra and ensembles, string quartet and duo piano.

Nicole Mitchell is a flutist, composer and bandleader. The founder of the critically acclaimed Black Earth Ensemble and Black Earth Strings, her compositions reach across sound worlds, integrating ideas with moments in jazz, gospel, pop and African percussion to create "multidirectional music." As a featured flutist and music educator, Mitchell and her ensembles have been a highlight at art venues and festivals in Europe, the U.S. and Canada. She has performed with George Lewis, Miya Masaoka, Lori Freedman, James Newton, Bill Dixon and Muhai Richard Abrams. She is currently working with Anthony Braxton, Ed Wilkerson, David Boykin, Rob Mazurek, Hamid Drake and Avreeayl Ra. As co-president of the AACM's Chicago Chapter, she works to raise respect and integrity for the improvised flute and to continue the exciting directions that the AACM has charted for decades.

Amina Claudine Myers is a pianist, organist, vocalist, composer and arranger, and a member of the AACM since its founding in 1965. She is known for her works involving choirs, voice and instrumental ensembles and performances. She became a member of the AACM in 1966. She focused on vocal composition and arrangement, organizing her first choir in 1975. After relocating to New York in 1976, she intensified her compositional work and performing, even expanding to Off-Broadway. She pursues ongoing collaborations with Sola Lui, choreographer Diane McIntyre, poet Ntozake Shange and writer Oyama O, and her past collaborations include Archie Shepp, Charlie Haden's Liberation Orchestra, James Blood Ulmer, Gene Ammons, Sonny Stitt, Muhai Richard Abrams, Lester Bowie and Bill Laswell.

Matana Roberts is a saxophonist, composer and conceptualist. A Chicago native and member of the AACM, she explores the mystical roots and spiritual traditions of African American creative expression in her music. Elder musicians showed her the importance of listening to her creative voice while using the traditions of jazz

and improvised music as her guide, not her definer. With their mentorship, she has crafted a voice and focus that evokes her artistic individuality. She feels her music should reflect the colors and moods of human emotion, but also testify, critique, document and respond to the many socio-economic, historical and cultural inequalities that exist universally. Visit www.matanaroberts.com for more info.

Craig Taborn is a piano, organ and Moog synthesizer player who performs jazz, ambient and techno music. He has worked with many musicians, including Chris Potter, Nate Smith, Gerald Cleaver, Lotte Anker, Drew Gress, James Carter, David Binney, Wayne Krantz, Adam Rogers, Tim Berne, members of The Bad Plus and the Susie Ibarra Trio. He leads the Craig Taborn Trio.

Chad Taylor started playing drums at age 14. He is co-founder of the critically acclaimed Chicago Underground ensembles. He has performed with Fred Anderson, Derek Bailey, Jemeel Moondoc, Bobby Bradford, Jeff Parker, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Nicole Mitchell and many others. Taylor is a member of Marc Ribot's Spiritual Unity band and leads his own band, Active Ingredients. He currently lives in New York City.

The Wet Ink Ensemble is a New York-based music collective whose core members include **Ian Antonio, Sarah Beaty, Nathan Botts, Matthew Hough, Erin Lesser, Alex Mincek, Sam Pluta, Miranda Sielaff, Jeff Snyder, Kate Soper** and **Eric Wubbels**. The group's repertoire ranges from scores of rigorous notational complexity to indeterminate and improvisational music; from the American experimental tradition to the contemporary European avant-garde; from acoustic to amplified to electronic works and works for homemade instruments. The Wet Ink Ensemble has performed works by composers like Ablinger, Feldman, Ferneyhough, Furrer, Hurel, Bernhard Lang, Lucier, Murail, Nono, Reich, Rzewski, Sciarrino, Tenney, and Wolff, and premiered works by emerging artists like James Fei, Hikari Kiyama, Alex Mincek, Randy Nordschow, Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, James Saunders, Oliver Schneller, Kate Soper, Charlie Wilmoth and Eric Wubbels.

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ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:
212.255.5793 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen
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www.thekitchen.org

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