

The Kitchen

Center for video, music, dance, performance, film, and literature

Spring 2019 Season

Upcoming Spring 2019

Stephen Malkmus

May 2, 7pm & 10pm

\$35 General; \$30 Members

Stephen Malkmus performs solo in support of *Groove Denied*, a surprising new project that embraces the very digital tools and procedures he'd have once gone out of his way to avoid. *Groove Denied* was made using Ableton Live, a software sequencer and "digital audio workstation" that is the preferred tool of discerning techno producers and deejays worldwide. Instead of a human-powered rhythm section of electric bass drums, Malkmus's arsenal further includes drum machines, along with a host of plug-in FX and "soft synths" (digital simulations of vintage electronic hardware that inhabit your computer rather than take over your entire living room). For the first time on record, what you hear here is just Stephen and the Machine(s).

The Kitchen L.A.B.: Avant, Fialho, Jemison, Magid

May 7, 6:30pm, Free

537 Broadway #2, NYC

The final L.A.B. of the spring season features an expanded dialogue at The Emily Harvey Foundation, including presentations by poet Jerriod Avant, curator and writer Alex Fialho, visual artist and writer Jill Magid, and interdisciplinary artist Steffani Jemison.

The Kitchen Spring Gala Benefit and Afterparty

honoring ANOHNI and Robert Gober

Thursday, May 16, 2019

512 W 19th Street, NYC

6pm: Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres

7:30pm: Dinner and Performances

Menu designed by Jean Adamson of Vinegar Hill House

Performances by Gang Gang Dance, This is the Kit, Mina Tindle, and members of The National

9:30pm-12:30pm: After-Party with DJs, Drinks, and Dancing. DJ set by Total Freedom

After-Party only tickets are \$100. Dinner tickets start at \$1,000. For more information, contact Rayna Holmes at rayna@thekitchen.org

The Kitchen presents

Wadada Leo Smith:
*Rosa Parks: Pure Love. An Oratorio
of Seven Songs*

April 26–27, 8pm & April 28, 3pm

Wadada Leo Smith: *Rosa Parks: Pure Love. An Oratorio of Seven Songs* is made possible with generous support from Robert D. Bielecki Foundation, Paula Cooper, Agnes Gund, and Dorothy Lichtenstein; endowment support from Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; annual grants from The Amphion Foundation, Inc., The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Music is composed by Wadada Leo Smith; texts by Wadada Leo Smith, except “No Fear,” a text by Rosa Parks.

ENSEMBLE

Diamond Voices:

Min Xiao-Fen — voice, pipa

Carmina Escobar — voice

Karen Parks — voice

RedKoral Quartet:

Shalini Vijayan — violin

Mona Tian — violin

Andrew McIntosh — viola

Ashley Walters — cello

Blue Trumpet Quartet:

Wadada Leo Smith — trumpet

Ted Daniel — trumpet

Taylor Ho Bynum — cornet

James Zollar — trumpet

Janus Duo:

Pheeroan akLaff — drums

Hardedge — electronics

Oguri — butoh dance

Jesse Gilbert — video

Notes on *Rosa Parks: Pure Love An Oratorio of Seven Songs*

Rosa Parks: Pure Love employs the song-form as composition to convey a philosophical and spiritual narrative about my vision of Rosa Parks. The oratorio is concerned with ideas and my meditation on the Civil Rights movement, and, through lighting, photographs and video images, reconnecting history in the present.

Embedded in the oratorio are excerpts of music by and performed by: Anthony Braxton, Leroy Jenkins, Steve McCall, and myself. These excerpts are used as signatures inside of the oratorio. With respect for them I have embedded a snapshots of their work.

In the last few years, I have used the word “create” to best describe what I and my colleagues are doing when we make music in the present moment. The so-called ‘improvisation’ is a term that does not express accurately what we are doing. We are musical creators and that activity in the present moment is a creation. That is very much true of the performances captured on this recording of *Rosa Parks: Pure Love*.

— Wadada Leo Smith

LYRICS

Song 1: *The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 381 Days: Fire*

Loving souls our hearts were forged
In the fire of the burning bush
As we crossed the bending arc of history.

After 300 days of struggle we created
A new life for the lovers –
With open hearts filled with victory.

If victory or defeat awakes our journey
Then from the Great Love,
A wholesome balance will condition our lives.

The light from our hearts crystalized a democracy of human action.
A free people,
This victory is the first on the highway of
Justice.

Justice.

Song 2: *The First Light, Gold*

In a pitch dark world Martin's light shines
For justice.

Whoever came into that light lives forever.
Go ahead my beloved,
And hear Martin's mountain-top prophesy.

He is with us and will always be amongst the lovers.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Song 3: *Change It!*

We have not a democracy
When Twenty-Eight states have Fifty-Six senators
California only two.

The people's vote is the law and the way to liberty.
We can't wait.
If we are a democracy
We must resolve this crisis now.

Change it!

Song 4: *The Truth*

My life is action with love
And with peace my will is strong.
No fear.

There is only truth.

If you feel the light you are right.

Love.

Love.

Nothing can be greater than love.

Who can know the love of a pure heart?
That's the truth.

Song 5: *No Fear*

Text by Rosa Parks

I have learned over the years, oh
That when one's mind is made up, oh this diminishes fear.
Knowing what must be done, does away with fear.

Knowing what must be done, does away with fear.

Oh – fear.

Fear.

Song 6: *The Second Light*

I conquered myself with love for humanity.
And when the road of life gets hard I keep moving.

As a people we will stand in life until
The sun rises from the west.

Rosa is with us and will always be
Amongst the lovers.

Song 7: *Pure Love*

Revenge and bitterness are the worst kind of hatred,
They poison the soul.

And often others are blamed for our troubles.
But, know this.

It is a sacred right to find our place in life.

The true lovers fill up their hearts
With light and love.

What will come to us no one can stop it.
And what is not in our future no one can make it happen.

Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us the meaning of
True love.
He said, "Love is not just Éros or Philia,
But true love is the greatest notion captured in the word Agápe."

The true lovers fill up their hearts with light and love.

BIOS

THE COMPOSER

WADADA LEO SMITH, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and improviser, is one of the most acclaimed creative artists of his time, both for his music and his writings. For the last five decades, Smith has been a member of the historical and legendary Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). He has been on the faculty of the following institutions: The University of New Haven (1975–1976), The Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, NY (1975–1978), and Bard College (1987–93). From 1994–2013 he served as faculty at The Herb Alpert School of Music at California Institute of the Arts where he was the director of the African-American Improvisational Music program. Smith's awards and commissions include: *DownBeat Magazine's* 65th Annual Critics Poll: Artist, Trumpet, and Album of the Year (*America's National Parks*). A finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, he received the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award and earned an honorary doctorate from CalArts, where he was also celebrated as Faculty Emeritus. Smith's own music theory and notational system for improvisation in an ensemble context, which he calls "ankhrasmation," has been significant in his development as an artist and educator. Smith published his music philosophy in the early 1970s in notes (8 pieces), *source a new world music: creative music* (Kiom Press, 1973).

THE DIAMOND VOICES

MIN XIAO-FEN has become internationally known for her virtuosity and fluid playing style on the pipa, whether performing classical music or in an avant-garde or improvised setting, and has been featured as a pipa soloist in a number of symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles. Xiao-Fen is also known as a singer and a composer. Although emerging from a classical background, Xiao-Fen has also become an established member of the improvised music community in New York since moving to the United States in 1992; recording and performing with Wadada Leo Smith, John Zorn, Randy Weston, Leroy Jenkins, and Steve Coleman, among many others. Xiao-Fen's solo recording *The Moon Rising* was recorded in 1986 and has since been followed by a number of others. Her own group, the Blue Pipa Trio, performs Xiao-Fen's compositions and arrangements combining Chinese folk music, regional operas, and Taoist music with American jazz standards, bluegrass, and other influences.

CARMINA ESCOBAR is an experimental vocalist, creative performer, interpreter of contemporary music, improviser, and sound and intermedia artist, who currently lives in Los Angeles. Her work focuses primarily on sound, the voice, the body, and their interrelations to physical, social, and memory spaces. She has intensely explored the capacities of her voice,

developing a wide range of vocal techniques that she applies not only to her performance and creative practice but also to investigate radical ideas and concepts regarding the voice. Escobar has presented her own work in a diverse array of festivals, biennials, experimental venues, and formal concert halls, as well as living rooms of the Mexican Republic, the United States, and Europe. She is currently a lecturer at the Voice Arts Department of CalArts where she teaches experiential voice and contemporary vocal music practice.

KAREN PARKS is principally known for her work as an opera singer, having performed with major opera houses and symphony orchestras throughout Europe and the United States. However, she is equally at home with gospel, popular music, and jazz. She continues to perform both nationally and internationally, teaches at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and maintains a private voice studio with instruction offered in all genres of music. Her numerous solo and collaborative recordings include *Nobody Knows: Songs of Harry T. Burleigh*, *Nocturne*, and *Perfect Harmony*, among others.

THE REDKORAL QUARTET

Originating during Wadada Leo Smith's tenure at CalArts in 1994–2013, all but one member of the Redkoral Quartet were his colleagues or students. The quartet participated in the recording of Smith's *Ten Freedom Summers* (2011) and has since been an integral part of live performances of this major work. RedKoral Quartet has also performed several of Smith's string quartets and is in the process of completing a recording of them.

SHALINI VIJAYAN is a well-established performer both on the East and the West Coast of the United States. As a member of New World Symphony in Miami, Florida in 1998–2001, she served as a concertmaster for many leading conductors. In Los Angeles, Vijayan is regularly featured with Southwest Chamber Music and is a founding member of Kristjan Järvi's Absolute Ensemble. She is also a member of the Lyris Quartet that has collaborated closely with both modern classical composers as well as composers from the realm of jazz and creative music. As part of Absolute and the Lyris Quartet, she has recorded a number of albums and performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

MONA TIAN completed her education with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at CalArts in 2013 and a Master's degree in music at University of Southern California in 2018. For the last few years, she has served as a violinist in the orchestras of two Southern California-based opera houses—The Industry LA and Opera Santa Barbara—in addition to working with the Debut Chamber Orchestra organized by the community organization Young Musicians

Foundation. Besides being a founding member of RedKoral Quartet, Tian has performed with a number of other chamber ensembles, including Southwest Chamber Music and the Rock Horn Project.

ANDREW MCINTOSH is an internationally recognized composer and performer who teaches at CalArts and is a co-founder of the experimentally-minded Formalist Quartet. His musical interests cover a broad spectrum, including historical performance practice, improvisation, microtonal tuning systems, long-form works, and the 20th-century avante-garde. His compositions have been featured at a number of important venues. Recent commissions have included works for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Industry Opera Company, the Calder Quartet, and violinists Movses Pogossian and Marco Fusi. As a solo violinist and a chamber musician, McIntosh has appeared at festivals and concert series across Europe and the United States.

ASHLEY WALTERS maintains a uniquely diverse career, performing music that blurs the boundaries between classical, avant-garde, and jazz, breaking new ground in repertoire with microtonality, extended techniques, alternative tunings, and improvisation. As a solo artist, Walters has been the dedicatee of significant additions to the cello repertoire and has appeared in concert series' and venues throughout the United States. Walters' debut solo album, *Sweet Anxiety* (2017), features works by Lucio Berio, Nicholas Deyoe, Andrew McIntosh, Wolfgang von Schweinitz, and Wadada Leo Smith. A frequent collaborator Smith's, the legendary trumpeter, improviser, and composer, Walters joined his Golden Quintet in 2016, recording *America's National Parks* that same year. Walters is also founding member of the Formalist Quartet, which has premiered a vast repertoire of works and is known for its audacious programming.

BLUETRUMPET QUARTET

In addition to Wadada Leo Smith himself, BlueTrumpet Quartet includes three highly acclaimed trumpet players of different generations of creative musicians.

TED DANIEL began studying trumpet in elementary school. He began his professional career playing local gigs with his childhood friend, the legendary guitarist, Sonny Sharrock. Since then, Daniel has participated in over thirty published recordings with great artists such as: Archie Shepp, Dewey Redman, Andrew Cyrille, Sam Rivers, Billy Bang, and Henry Threadgill. Daniel has produced three albums under his own name, and has received a NEA compositional grant and a Talent Deserving Wider Recognition award from *Downbeat Magazine*. Presently, he is writing and performing with his new group, the International Brass and Membrane Corps (IBMC). Ted's most

recent release is *The Ted Daniel Trio (the loft years) volume one* (May 2009, Ujamma Records). Daniel holds a Bachelor of Music from the City College of New York (1977) and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work (1989).

TAYLOR HO BYNUM has spent his career navigating the intersections between structure and improvisation—through musical composition, performance and interdisciplinary collaboration, and through production, organizing, teaching, writing and advocacy. Bynum’s expressionistic playing on cornet and his expansive vision as composer have garnered him critical attention on over twenty recordings as a bandleader and dozens more as a sideman. Bynum’s two decades of work with Anthony Braxton is recognized as one of the most generative partnerships of that legendary composer’s career, with projects ranging from duos to orchestras and everything in between. During Bynum’s stewardship of the Tri-Centric Foundation (which he served as executive director from 2010-2018), he produced many major Braxton projects, including two massive Trillium operas, two immersive Sonic Genome performances, and multiple festivals. He has also worked closely with such departed masters as Bill Dixon and Cecil Taylor, with other recent sideman credits including Nels Cline, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Tomas Fujiwara, Jim Hobbs, Jason Kao Hwang, Ingrid Laubrock, Bill Lowe, Nicole Mitchell, Nate Wooley, and Yo La Tengo. In 2017, Bynum became the director of the jazz and creative music ensemble at Dartmouth College, where he also teaches composition and improvisation.

JAMES ZOLLAR has played in various radio and jazz bands, and has directed his own quintet. Zollar attended San Diego City College and the University of California at San Diego. He also studied with Woody Shaw in 1972, worked with Jon Faddis and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra, and played with Wynton Marsalis and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. When Zollar came to New York City in 1984, he began playing in Cecil McBee’s band. He spent the following years working alongside many important musicians including David Murray in the 1990s, Joe Haider and Bert Joris in 1992, Sam Rivers in 1998, Jürg Morgenthaler and Tom Harrell in 1999, and Don Byron in the late 1990s. In 1997, Zollar produced the first album under his own name, *Sourcing with Bird*, which appeared on the label Naxos Jazz.

JANUS DUO

PHEEROAN AKLAFF grew up in a musical family in Detroit, Michigan. In 1975, akLaff moved to New Haven where he began performing with Wadada Leo Smith and many of the other young musicians based there. His first recordings were with Smith's New Dalta Akhri and with Oliver Lake in 1976. After akLaff moved to New York City in 1978, he was often associated with improvised music, but soon demonstrated his knowledge of other forms of African-American music from funk to reggae. He has toured extensively in Africa, Asia and Europe and studied urban popular music, folk drums and dance in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, and Lagos, Nigeria. In the early 1980s, akLaff joined Oliver Lake in his reggae-influenced band Jump Up and Henry Threadgill in Sextett, his Make A Move ensemble, and his New Air. Beginning in 1988, akLaff also worked extensively with Japanese pianist Yosuke Yamashita. Since that time, akLaff has worked with many important figures of modern jazz and improvised music in addition to leading his own projects and teaching. akLaff has released four recordings under his own name beginning with *House Of Spirit: "Mirth"* in 1979. akLaff currently performs with a number of Wadada Leo Smith's ensembles, including the Golden Quartet and Mbira.

HARDEGE is the pseudonym of Velibor Pedevski for his experimental electronics projects based in New York. Hardege's experimental approach to sound, space, and structure is inspired and based on the fundamental principles of the AACM's creative thinkers, with whom Pedevski has collaborated extensively for many years. Pedevski has taught at the New School for Social Research in New York (1993–2006). He has released eight albums in duo with Graham Haynes, three solo recordings, and a duo CD with Wadada Leo Smith titled *The Nile*. Some of Hardege's recent projects include the power-trio DarkMatterHalo, that he co-leads with guitarists Brandon Ross and Doug Wieselmann. The group has released three albums to date: *Darkness Interrupted*, *Cataclysmic Beauty*, and *Discernible Grid*.

NAOYUKI OGURI, who performs as simply Oguri, is a dancer and choreographer who lives in Los Angeles, California, where he creates and teaches dance. His work is influenced by the tradition of the Japanese Butoh style of dance. Prior to moving to Los Angeles he studied with master Tatsumi Hijikata, the founder of a genre of Butoh dance whom Oguri credits as his inspiration for interest in the field. He also studied and danced with Min Tanaka's Body Weather in a mountain village in Yamanashi Prefecture in rural Japan, where he met dancer and choreographer Roxanne Steinberg. In 1990, he went to Los Angeles and married Steinberg. In 2002 he was featured in the book *In Other Los Angeleses: Multicentric Performance Art* by Meiling Cheng. Oguri was also featured in the film *Height of Sky*, a documentary by Morleigh Steinberg. Subsequent works include *Kalpa*, performed at the Getty Center in Los Angeles in January 2012, as well as a performance of *Cold Dream Colour* as a member of the Arcane Collective at the REDCAT.

JESSE GILBERT is an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersection of visual art, sound, and software design, creating flexible frameworks that are activated in live performance via network interaction or in installation settings. Building on his work as a composer, sound designer, and lifelong technologist, Gilbert's creative output probes the phenomenological nature of listening itself through a practice centering on improvisation and collaborative dialogue. Gilbert co-founded Dark Matter Media LLC in 2007, through which he consults on a variety of projects in the art and entertainment industries. From 2011–2017 he was the founding Chair of the Media Technology department at Woodbury University, and has taught interactive software design at both CalArts and UC San Diego. Gilbert's collaborative and solo work has been shown widely in the US and abroad. His work has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Eyebeam Atelier, the National Performance Network, turbulence.org, the Studio for Creative Inquiry (Carnegie Mellon), the Jerome Foundation, Creative Capital, the Greenwall Foundation, the Markle Foundation, the Beall Center for Art & Technology (UC Irvine), the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Montalvo Arts Center, the Watson Foundation, ASK Theater Projects, and the Center for Experiments in Art, Information and Technology (CEAIT). In December 2010 he was voted a Finalist for the World Technology Award in the Arts and inducted as a new Fellow by the World Technology Network. In 1994 Gilbert received a Watson Fellowship and spent a year studying music in Ghana, West Africa. His independent research, focused primarily on oral transmission of culture, has been a primary influence on his later work in electronic media.

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Alanna Heiss & Frederick Sherman
Howard Singerman
Bart Slaninka
Michael Smith
Julie Solovyeva
Kimsu Theiler
Hank Thomas
Melissa Timarchi
William Trombley
Robert Ventura
Ben Vida
Irena Wang
Scott Weaver
Sarah Wellington
Byron Westbrook
Tony White
Tom Whitehurst
Christina Yang
Paul David Young
Christine Zehner

The Kitchen

STAFF

Tim Griffin, *Executive Director and Chief Curator*

Lauren Cronk, *Manager, Individual Giving & Events*

Rayna Holmes, *Administrative & Development Associate*

Nicole Kaack, *Curatorial Fellow*

Eileen Kleiman, *Accounting Manager*

Bruce Lineker, *Director of Development*

Brad Loving, *Media & Technology Manager*

Matthew Lyons, *Curator*

Andrew Ricci, *Lighting Supervisor*

Eric Sherman, *Audio Supervisor*

Kerry Scheidt, *Associate Director*

Lumi Tan, *Curator*

Zack Tinkelman, *Production Manager*

Lindsay Hockaday, *Maggie Hoffman,*

Modesto-Flako Jimenez

Teaching Artists

Nico Grelli, Shantelle Jackson, Neal Medlyn,

Tina Mitchell, Hannah Nutter, Adrienne Truscott

Front of House Team

Neal Medlyn, *Box Office*

Sofia Benitez, Jose Carrazana, Ava Goldwyn,

Tianyu Guo, Ashley Matias Matos, Isabella St.

Ivany, *Interns*

CONSULTANTS

Paula Court, *House Photographer*

Joseph Bacon, Al Foote, Iki Nakagawa

Videographers

Blake Zidell & Associates,

Press Consultants

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