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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents a shared evening of music by Min Xiao-Fen and Guillermo E. Brown**

**Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26, 8:00 P.M.**

New York, NY, October 12, 2007—**The Kitchen** presents two shared evenings of music by Chinese pipa virtuoso, vocalist, and composer **Min Xiao-Fen** and percussionist and electronic musician **Guillermo E. Brown**. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the performances will take place on **Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26 at 8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Admission is \$10.

The Chinese pipa virtuoso, vocalist, and composer Min Xiao-Fen is known for hypnotically intense performances that interweave diverse musical influences including southern Chinese folk music, American jazz and bluegrass.

At the Kitchen, Xiao-Fen will perform a newly commissioned work, ***Return of the Dragon***, a non-stop cycle of music inspired by Chinese dragon iconography and calligraphy. The artist has created her own drawings of dragons, then, in composing the music, worked to capture the spirit of them: the energy, strength and imagination they represent. Xiao-Fen will be accompanied in the Return of the Dragon performances by Okkyung Lee (cello) and Satoshi Takeishi (percussion and electronics).

Opening the evenings both nights is Guillermo E. Brown, who tests the boundaries of free jazz and hip-hop in ***Syrup***, a new collection of electro-acoustic music. Syrup, for Brown, is viscosity, and the propensity for connectedness—good and tragic, alike—through the flow of various materials, including music. The new work is partly inspired by the discovery in Panama—where Brown has roots—of toothpaste containing the sweet-tasting but deadly chemical diethylene glycol, as well as by such events as the mass suicide by Flavor Aid at Jonestown in 1978. Brown also had in mind the notion of drunkenness and robo-tripping, and the capacity chemicals can provide for us to enter new realms. So, fluid, in its ability to connect people globally, can be disastrously negative or transcendently positive.

*Syrup* features Brown on drums, vocals, and electronics; Shoko Nagai (piano, keyboard and electronics); and percussionist Neil Ochoa.

This program is made possible with generous support from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Greenwall Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the New York State Music Fund, and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

### **About the Artists**

An accomplished improviser, experimental music composer and new music pioneer who grew up during the Cultural Revolution in China, **Min Xiao-Fen** first appeared at The Kitchen in 2004 with a commissioned work, “The Loneliest Monk.”

Xiao-Fen was a pipa soloist for the famed Nanjing National Music Orchestra from 1980 to 1992, when she moved to the U.S. She has been a featured soloist with the New York City Opera, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the vocal ensemble Chanticleer, the San Diego Symphony and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, among others. She has performed solo concerts at the Vienna Music Festival, the Utrecht International Lute Festival, the Geneva Music Festival, the Berlin Chinese Music Festival, the New York Guitar Festival and at various jazz festivals in Paris, Quebec, and Jakarta. Min performed Philip Glass's chamber operas *The Sound of a Voice* and *Hotel of Dreams* at the Court Theater in Chicago in 2003, and, later that year, was invited by Jazz at Lincoln Center to play a solo set of Thelonius Monk's music. In 2004, her piece "The Loneliest Monk" was commissioned and played by Kitchen House Blend at The Kitchen. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band asked Min to play as a special guest, and the Taipei Chinese Orchestra invited her to perform the world premiere of Anthony De Ritis' *Ping Pong*.

In 2005 —2006 she played with her Blue Pipa Trio at the JVC Jazz Festival, the Deer Isle Jazz Festival, in the world premiere of seven pieces with the Nieuw Ensemble at the Amsterdam-China Music Festival, and in six solo concerts in Holland and Belgium organized by RASA (Centre for World Cultures).

Her albums include *The Moon Rising* (Cala), *Spring, River, Flower, Moon, Night* (Asphodel), *Viper* (Avant), *Khepera* (Verve), and *Min Xiao-Fen with Six Composers* (Avant). She was featured on *Shaolin Ulysses* and *The Port of Last Resort* (both Tzadik), two movie soundtracks composed by John Zorn, and a duet with pianist Randy Weston. Xiao-Fen has taught master classes and was an artist in residence at schools and universities across the United States and Europe, including the Juilliard School, the Boston Conservatory, the New School, the Haystack Mountain School of Arts Crafts and the Amsterdam Conservatory. She currently lives in New York City and is also the founder of Blue Pipa, Inc.

**Guillermo E. Brown** is a musician (drums, electronics, voice), multidisciplinary performer (text, video, theatre) and producer. He was awarded a 2001 Artist-in-Residence and 2003 Van Lier Fellowship from Harvestworks Digital Media Arts Center. Featured on over 25 recordings, he has performed or recorded with David S. Ware, William Parker, Matthew Shipp, Marlies Yearby, Rob Reddy, Roy Campbell Quartet, Spring Heel Jack, Anti-Pop Consortium, Anthony Braxton, DJ Spooky, El P, Carl Hancock Rux, Vernon Reid/DJ Logic's Yohimbe Brothers, Mike Ladd, George Lewis, and Vijay Iyer, among others.

His albums include *Soul at the Hands of the Machine*, *The Beat Kids' Open Rhythm System*, *Black Dreams 1.0*, *...Is Arturo Klauft*, and *Handheld*. His one-man theatre piece, *Robeson In Space*, premiered at Luna Stage in Montclair, NJ in October 2005. He is currently at work on a new solo record, *Shuffle Mode*, premiering with a live performance at The Apollo in '08, The Beat Kids' new album *Sound Magazine*, a large group performance piece and his ensemble Cut Up Quintet. A graduate of Wesleyan University (BA) and Bard College (MFA), he is an Adjunct Professor at NYU's Clive Davis School of Recorded Music and Gallatin School of Independent Study.

## **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:

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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen

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