

Merkin Concert Hall

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Kaufman Center

presents

Ecstatic Music Festival 2012

Nick Zammuto & Jason Treuting

with janus, Daisy Press & Grey McMurray

Jason Treuting, *percussion*; Nick Zammuto, *acoustic guitar, synthesizer and bass*;

janus: Amanda Baker, *flute*; Beth Meyers, *viola* and Nuiko Wadden, *harp*

Grey McMurray, *guitar* and Daisy Press, *vocals*

A New Sounds® Live Presentation

John Schaefer, *host*

JASON TREUTING

pluck, blow, bow

JANUS

NICK ZAMMUTO/JASON TREUTING

Duos — *selections to include*

the best autoharp solo in the world

laser show

the stick

better than nothing for everyone

JASON TREUTING and NICK ZAMMUTO

with GREY MCMURRAY

NICK ZAMMUTO

the fig and the finger

JANUS

Intermission

JASON TREUTING

12 words

Video by NICK ZAMMUTO

with JANUS, GREY MCMURRAY, DAISY PRESS,

JASON TREUTING and NICK ZAMMUTO

About the Ecstatic Music Festival

The Ecstatic Music Festival was inaugurated in 2011 by Kaufman Center (kaufman-center.org). Deeply committed to music education and performance that incorporate the ideas and trends of the 21st century, the Center sought to put truly modern music on its stage—redefining music for the post-classical generation, and serving it up to new audiences. Until now, the

blurry lines between the classical and pop genres were typically crossed in downtown clubs and alternative spaces. The Ecstatic Music Festival has brought that new stuff into a more traditional concert hall setting, where a relaxed atmosphere meets up with the exquisite acoustics that the artists and the music deserve.

Under the inspired direction of curator Judd Greenstein, the Ecstatic Music Festival's programs give true meaning to the notion of "Ecstatic Music" as a joyful and adventurous collaboration between composers and performers from the indie/pop and classical realms.

This year's Ecstatic Music Festival includes three New Sounds® Live concerts hosted by WNYC's John Schaefer, which are webcast live on Q2 Music and taped for future broadcast on WNYC. Q2 Music is the festival's digital venue and the center for on-demand artist interviews and concert audio. The festival is presented in association with New Amsterdam Presents.

Judd Greenstein, Ecstatic Music Festival Curator

Composer Judd Greenstein was born and raised in New York City. A passionate advocate for the indie classical community in NYC, much of Mr. Greenstein's work is written for its virtuosic ensembles and solo performers. Mr. Greenstein received degrees from Williams College and the Yale School of Music, has been a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and the Bang on a Can Summer Institute of Music, and is completing his Ph.D. dissertation at Princeton University. Recent commissions include a 30-minute work for the Minnesota Orchestra, a string quartet/analog synthesizer work for ETHEL and a string trio for Gibbs & Main. Mr. Greenstein is also active as a promoter of new music. He is the managing director of NOW Ensemble, the composer/performer collective that has quickly established itself as one of the most prominent and promising sounds in 21st century chamber music. He is also the co-director of New Amsterdam Records/New Amsterdam Presents, a record label and artists' service organization.

About the Artists

Brooklyn based **janus** was formed in 2002 with the goal of presenting and creating new repertoire for the trio through commissioning projects and works-in-process collaborations. Named after Janus, the Roman god whose double-faced image peers into the past and future, the trio maintains the established tradition for the instrumentation while breaking new ground into unexplored sonic frontiers. Beginning with Debussy and including Toru Takemitsu, André Jolivet, Sophia Gubaidulina and Kaija Saariaho, composers have been allured by this intriguing combination of something bowed, something blown and something plucked.

To date, janus has added over 20 new pieces to the trio library through individual submissions and collaborative projects with universities. Among the composers who have written for janus are Caleb Burhans, Anna Clyne, Andrew McKenna-Lee, Angélica Negrón, Jason Treuting, Dan Trueman, Dmitri Tymoczko and Barbara White. From its inception to the present, janus has collaborated with the composition departments from Princeton, Colgate, New York, Cleveland State, Columbia and Cornell Universities. Not limiting themselves to only universities, janus has collaborated with the Aspen Music Festival and School, presenting music activities for over 1000 children from grade school through high school.

Within New York City, janus has been featured at venues including Symphony Space, (le) Poisson Rouge, Joe's Pub, WNYC's Greene Space, The Tank, Roulette, BAM Café, The Stone, Weill Recital Hall and the Look and Listen Festival. Other group credits include performances at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Cleveland Museum of Art, the Spark Festival (Minneapolis), Bowling Green State University (OH), the Glenwood Springs Center for the Arts (CO), the Columbus Art Museum and the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series (Chicago).

janus is a New Amsterdam Records artist and can be heard on their debut release *i am not*. They are also featured on *Gravity and Air* – a release from fellow New Amsterdam Records artist, Andrew McKenna Lee.

Grey McMurray is a guitar player and singer who has been based in Brooklyn since 2004. Since that time, he has toured the U.S. and Europe and performed or recorded with a diverse group of musicians including Tyondai Braxton, Shara Worden, Gil-Scott Heron, Chromeo, So Percussion, Nicole Atkins, The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Arooj Aftab, among others. He is a member of The Wordless Music Orchestra, Beyondo and The Minerva Lions. Grey is the co-leader of the duo itsnotyouitsme with Caleb Burhans, as well as the triumphant soul band Knights On Earth. He is currently working on the score for a

documentary about Pakistan called *Without Shepherds* and is finishing itsnotyouitsme's third release on New Amsterdam Records, due in the fall. He hopes, everyday, to make strangers cry – in a positive way – and find truths in the universe, with the power of music.

A specialist in the field of contemporary music, vocalist **Daisy Press** was born into a performing family as the daughter of two musicians. In addition to her solo and ensemble vocal work, she also plays the violin and guitar and has appeared as an actor in an upcoming Adam Goldberg independent film. Most recently, she was praised by the *New York Times* for her "winning subtlety and understatement" in her rendition of George Crumb's new folk-based song cycle *Unto the Hills* at Miller Theatre with the acclaimed group So Percussion. Previously, she has sung with them the works of Steve Reich including *Music for 18 Musicians* and *Drumming*, which she has also performed as a guest artist at Juilliard.

Additional credits include being the featured soloist for the New York premiere of Phillipe Leroux's *Voi(rex)* at Miller Theatre alongside IRCAM; *Apparition* by George Crumb at the Bang on a Can Marathon, where Ms. Press was for two years singer-in-residence; *Attila-Joszef Fragments* by Kurtag at Symphony Space and excerpts, with the composer in attendance, for Elliott Carter's *Of Challenge and of Love*. She has also appeared in Ireland with the Argento Ensemble in Earl Kim's *Exercises en Route* and was hailed for her "calm naturalness" by the *New York Times* for her performance of early and late Webern song cycles.

Ms. Press has performed Morton Feldman's *Three Voices* (the studio recording soon to be released) and has appeared with the VOX vocal ensemble. She is currently on faculty at Manhattan School of Music, where she received her Masters degree. She also holds academic degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and Oxford University, and she has studied voice in the studios of Trish McCaffrey and Hilda Harris, and North Indian ragas with Michael Harrison.

Having been raised on a rock and roll tour (literally under the stage), she can occasionally be spotted performing at Irving Plaza with the preeminent Neil Diamond cover band, Super Diamond.

Jason Treuting, composer, performer and improviser, enjoys making pieces that translate numbers and letters into patterns of sound. He has made music with and for So Percussion, QQQ, Alligator Eats Fish, Matmos, Kneebody, Steve Mackey, Big Farm and many other experimental artists.

As a composer, Jason has written and recorded a film score for Jenise Treuting's *Invitations and Ultimatums*. This project led to *Amid the Noise*, a collection of 12 short pieces paired with films of street scenes from Japan and the U.S. Described as "rich and engrossing" by *Time Out NY*, *Amid the Noise* premiered at the Whitney Museum and toured the U.S. and Canada in Fall of 2006 with stops at the Wexner Art Center, the Warhol Museum, the Boston MFA, the Walker Art Center and the Lincoln Center Festival. His newest band, Alligator Eats Fish, with longtime collaborator Grey McMurray, mixes composed music with improvisation and film and is gathering music for their first release, *A Scattered Week*.

His project with So Percussion, *Music for Trains*, culminated in a site-specific concert in both Brattleboro and Bellows Falls, VT, with two outdoor concerts at the towns train station, music for a video installation in the train depot and two collaborative prerecorded scores to accompany the train rides that were written with Josh Quillen and Eric Beach of So. The music grew out of a month-long residency in Southern VT, gathering sounds, interviews, materials and inspiration for the evening-length score.

Other recent commissions include the Greenwall Foundation/Solar One's support of *16 Words*, a set of shorts based on 16 of Merriam-Webster's new words from 2006, presented in the form of a spelling bee, the Argosy Foundation's support for *Music for Trains*, a new string quartet for the Calder Quartet premiered at the Carlsbad Music Festival in 2009 and a consortium commission for a solo marimba piece for percussionist Payton MacDonald.

Jason's music has been featured on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, WNYC's *Soundcheck* and *Evening Music*. His music has been chosen as a top 10 album of the year by *All About Jazz* and a track of the week by *USA Today*. Jason is a member of ASCAP and has been recorded on Cantaloupe Music and New Amsterdam Records. His music is published by Good Child Music.

Nick Zammuto, well known for his experimental folktronica outfit *The Books*, currently lives and works in Vermont. Since the retirement of *The Books* in 2011, Nick has founded a new four piece band simply called Zammuto, and recently debuted new songs from their forthcoming album on the Brooklyn-based label Temporary Residence. In parallel with producing his own records, he has done soundtrack work for films, most recently for *Achante*, a film about Haitian Vodou practices. His

musical performances often involve tightly synched visuals, usually as sample-based videos or interactive sound sculpture. He lives with his wife and three sons in the Green Mountains of Southern Vermont, in a house they designed and constructed themselves.

John Schaefer (host) is the host of WNYC's innovative music/talk show *Soundcheck*, which features live performances and interviews with a variety of guests. Schaefer has also hosted and produced WNYC's radio series *New Sounds* since 1982 ("The No. 1 radio show for the Global Village" – *Billboard*) and the *New Sounds Live* concert series since 1986. Schaefer has written extensively about music, including the book *New Sounds: A Listener's Guide to New Music* (Harper & Row, NY, 1987; Virgin Books, London, 1990); the *Cambridge Companion to Singing: World Music* (Cambridge University Press, U.K., 2000); and the TV program *Bravo Profile: Bobby McFerrin* (Bravo Television, 2003). He has also written about horse racing (*Bloodlines: A Horse Racing Anthology*, Vintage, NY 2006) and is a regular panelist on the BBC's soccer-based program *Sports World*.