

School of Music and DXARTS Presents

The Vu/Karpen Project

Luke Bergman, *Electric Bass*

Richard Karpen, *Piano*

Ted Poor, *Drums*

Cuong Vu, *Trumpet*

Live Electronics:

Richard Karpen & Josh Parmenter

Technical Coordinator:

Mike McCrea

7:30 PM

February 14, 2012

MEANY THEATER

The Vu/Karpen Project is an experimental music ensemble formed to explore innovative methods of creating works of complex, instinctive, and dramatic new music. The concert this evening is a performance of a work in progress and the culmination of a week-long workshop of experimentation and rehearsal. This was the second of four such intensive working periods spread across a year, each one followed by a performance of the work in its state at the time.

LUKE BERGMAN

An innovative bassist, composer and producer who is constantly putting forth dynamic new works, Luke Bergman has become an integral part of the music scene in the Northwest. His artistic and educational efforts as well as his dedication to creative music have served as a touchstone for a new generation of Seattle musicians.

Bergman's music has garnered critical acclaim on a national and international level for his work with Heatwarmer, Speak, Thousands, and The Cuong Vu 4-Tet. He is dedicated to the development of the local music community and serves as co-creator, organizer and artistic director of The Racer Sessions, a weekly performance series devoted to the advancement of avant-garde music in Seattle. Debuting new works each week and operating as a performance workshop for group free improvisation, the series has provided a place for artists to interact and inspire each other on a regular basis. Bergman also serves as a board member, producer, recording engineer and co-founder of Table and Chairs Music, a not-for-profit independent record label that documents and promotes creative music in Seattle. As an experienced educator, Bergman offers a wealth of musical knowledge in many areas paired with an eagerness to reach students of all abilities.

RICHARD KARPEN

Richard Karpen is a composer and researcher in multiple areas music and the arts. He is widely known for his pioneering compositions for live and electronic media, and also for developing computer applications for music composition, live/interactive performance, and sonic arts.

Karpen is currently Director of the School of Music at the University of Washington where he is also a Professor of Music Composition. He previously served at the UW as Divisional Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences and Founding Director of the Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS). He has been the recipient of many awards, grants and prizes including those from the

National Endowment for the Arts, the ASCAP Foundation, the Bourges Contest in France, and the Luigi Russolo Foundation in Italy. Fellowships and grants for work outside of the U.S. include a Fulbright to Italy, a residency at IRCAM in France, and a Leverhulme Visiting Fellowship to the United Kingdom. He received his doctorate in composition from Stanford University, where he also worked at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). Karpen is a native of New York, where he studied composition with Charles Dodge and Gheorghe Costinescu.

Karpen has composed works for many leading international soloists such as soprano Judith Bettina, violist Garth Knox, trombonist Stuart Dempster, flutists Laura Chislett and Jos Zwaanenberg, guitarist, Stefan Ostersjo, and oboist Alex Klein. Along with numerous concert and radio performances, his works have been set to dance by groups such as the Royal Danish Ballet and the Guandong Dance Company of China. Karpen's compositions have been recorded on a variety of labels including Wergo, Centaur, Neuma, Le Chant du Monde, DIFFUSION i MeDIA, Fleur du Son, and Capstone.

TED POOR

Since moving to New York City in 2003, drummer/composer Ted Poor has established himself as a highly in demand, new voice on the jazz/improvised music scene. "Mr. Poor is a sharp young drummer who has had the effect, in recent months, of galvanizing any group in which he plays" states the *NEW YORK TIMES* while *JAZZ REVIEW* writes, "[Ted] has an uncanny ability to shape the music and a refreshingly unique, organic approach to playing the drums." This unique approach has caught the ears of many of the city's most established musicians. Ted is a regular member of the Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet and Trio, Ben Monder Quartet, the Cuong Vu Trio, the David Berkman Quartet and the Jeromoe Sabbagh Quartet. In addition, Ted has recently worked alongside Chris Potter, Bill Frisell, Maria Schneider, Aaron Parks, George Garzone, Ralph Alessi, Donny McCaslin, Kermit Driscoll, Kate McGary, Marc Ducret, David Fiuczynski, Rich Perry, Joe Locke, Wycliffe Gordon and John McNeil.

While maintaining a busy touring schedule as a sideman and leader/guest soloist in Europe, the US, South America and Korea, Ted has held residencies as an educator at the Eastman School of Music, Berklee College of Music, Cal Arts, Lawrence University, the HR Big Band of Frankfurt, Colorado University in Denver and the University of Washington.

As a leader, Ted has released a debut CD entitled All Around (Trier 2003). Most recently he has formed Bad Touch, a dynamic quartet that has garnered rave reviews in industry publications such as JAZZTIMES, DOWNBEAT and ALL ABOUT JAZZ. Ted is also a founding member of the Brooklyn Jazz Underground, a collective of independent bandleaders with a shared commitment to create greater awareness of their work in improvised music.

CUONG VU

Cuong Vu is widely recognized by jazz critics as a leader of a generation of innovative musicians. A truly unique musical voice, Cuong has lent his trumpet playing talents to a wide range of artists including Pat Metheny, Laurie Anderson, David Bowie, Dave Douglas, Myra Melford, Cibo Matto, and Mitchell Froom.

As a youngster, Cuong's intense dedication and love for music led him to a full scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music where he received his Bachelor of Music in Jazz studies with a distinction in performance. Transitioning from his studies in Boston, he moved to New York in 1994 and began his career actively leading various groups while touring extensively throughout the world. As a leader, Cuong has released five recordings, each making critics' lists of the ten best recordings of their respective years. Each record displays how he has carved out a distinctive sonic territory on the trumpet, blurring all stylistic borders while developing his own compositional aesthetic.

Awards and honors that Cuong has garnered include the Colbert Award for Excellence: The Downtown Arts Project Emerging Artist Award. As an assistant professor in jazz studies, he was recently awarded the University of Washington's prestigious Distinguished Teacher Award and is a Donald E. Petersen Endowed Fellow. In 2002 and 2006, Cuong was a recipient of the Grammy for Best Contemporary Jazz Album as a member of the Pat Metheny Group. He's been recognized as one of the top fifty young jazz artists in an article called "The New Masters" from the British magazine, CLASSIC CD and in 2006 was named the Best International Jazz Artist by the Italian Jazz Critics' Society. Amazon included Vu's *Come Play With Me* on its list The 100 Greatest Jazz Albums of All Time.

Next contemporary music performance at the University of Washington:

March 9, Composers' Workshop:

Special guest bassoonist Pascal Gallois performs works by UW composition students. 7:30 PM, Brechemin Auditorium.