

The DownTown Ensemble

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The SoundArt Foundation presents the DownTown Ensemble in
According to Brian
Sunday, June 21, 3pm
The Brick Elephant, 12 Emily Street, Valley Falls, NY
(518) 753-0244 www.resoundings.net • admission by donation

The DownTown Ensemble's June 21st concert at the **Brick Elephant** will feature six composers in the great tradition of experimental music pioneered by Charles Ives and Carl Ruggles and more recently typified by John Cage, Earle Brown and Morton Feldman. Four of these composers are living and working in the Hudson Valley. Featured on the program will be new works by **Brian Dewan** (Catskill) and **Yvette Perez**; specially arranged compositions by **Peter Zummo**, and **Pauline Oliveros** (Kingston); and pieces by **William Hellermann** (Columbiaville) and **Mary Jane Leach** (Valley Falls).

Brian Dewan records and performs original songs with zither, autoharp, or accordion accompaniment, as well as presenting out of the way folk songs and musical artifacts. He collaborates with his cousin Leon Dewan, making analog electronic instruments and performing as *Dewanatron*. His work was recently featured on NPR as a part of an in-depth interview with him. His new piece is told in voices and musical sounds as stories excerpted from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, written about a century after the death of Francis in 1225. Spoken, sung and intoned, these stories borne of an oral tradition and later written for the page are presented aloud with illumination provided by musical instruments.

Yvette Perez is the bandleader, vocalist, keyboard player, and songwriter for *H*E*R*, *H*E*R (plus size)*, and *Birdbrain*. She is also a member of the Peter Zummo Group. She lives in Brooklyn by the BQE. *I think I'm in the Wrong Department* is a reverie of department store shopping inspired by the composer's many afternoons at Macy's with her mother.

Peter Zummo has been composing for ensemble and trombone since 1967, in pursuit of the evolving boundary of music-making and brass culture. His many compositions for ensemble build on original melody and melodic fragments, generating interactive situations for musicians in which they explore the boundaries of common and extended practice without, however, having to act arbitrarily. He wrote *(The) Who Stole the Polka* in 1989 as a solo accordion piece for Guy Klucevsek. Trio arrangements followed resulting in parts for violin and cello, and marimba and tuba. This performance combines these parts and adds an extended "polka drone."

Pauline Oliveros is a composer, performer, author and philosopher and has influenced American music extensively through her works with improvisation, electronic music, teaching, myth, ritual and meditation. She pioneered the concept of Deep Listening, an aesthetic based upon principles of improvisation, electronic music, ritual, teaching and meditation designed to inspire both trained and untrained performers to practice the art of listening and responding to environmental conditions in solo and ensemble situations. Since 2001 she has served as Distinguished Research Professor of Music in the Arts department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) where she is engaged in research on a National Science Foundation CreativeIT project.

Mary Jane Leach is a composer/performer whose work reveals a fascination with the physicality of sound, its acoustic properties and how they interact with space. She currently lives in The Brick Elephant, a resonant former church, in Rensselaer County. Her piece, *Guy de Polka*, is for solo accordion and was also written for Guy Klucevsek. It's a serious, as opposed to a playful, polka, and plays with the unique sound qualities of the accordion.

William Hellermann is a composer/performer living in Columbia County. He received the Prix de Rome from the American Academy in addition to numerous other awards. His pieces on this concert, *el ropo*, *One Bar Blues*, and *Afterdinner Music*, are from his series of sound sculptures in which the music is notated on everyday objects. The music is intended to pay homage to the quotidian.

The DownTown Ensemble was founded in 1983 by its co-directors, Daniel Goode and William Hellermann, as a response to a perceived need for repertoire customarily under-represented in today's new music world. "This intrepid group of conceptualists cuts no aesthetic corners." (*The Village Voice*) Although originally formed in New York City, the group is now based in Columbiaville, Columbia County, where Mr. Hellermann lives. The Ensemble has made its reputation performing a number of different types of experimental music, such as: traditionally notated and graphic music scores, sound/text music, ritual/intermedia pieces, performance art and Fluxus, improvisation in a number of traditions; large ensemble, scores for variable (unspecified) instrumentation, and interactive computer

music. The group regularly features composers performing and directing their music often written expressly for the Ensemble. There have been over one hundred and forty such collaborations since the group's inception.

Admission is by donation. The concert will be given also on Thursday, June 26th at 8pm at Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow Street, NYC. Reservations at 212-925-6684.



State of the Arts

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