

RE:SOUNDINGS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOWNTOWN ENSEMBLE/Concert and Potluck Picnic

"The DownTown Ensemble is devoted to individualistic, peculiar music." —Robert Ashley

Saturday, July 2, 2005 2 PM
12 Emily Street (the old catholic church)
Valley Falls, NY 12185
Admission by donation

Re:Soundings presents a concert, followed by a potluck picnic, by the DownTown Ensemble, fresh from a successful concert at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York last month. The Ensemble was formed in 1983 and has performed a broad array of contemporary music, focusing on music with open instrumentation, improvisation, or graphic scores, from Ashley to Zummo. An audience member leaving one of their concerts was heard to say, "they make the music sound like it's fun."

This concert will present music from the thirties to music finished only a month ago, featuring the singing and spoken voice, performing music by **Johanna M. Beyer**, **Daniel Goode**, **Mary Jane Leach**, **Jackson Mac Low**, and **John McGuire**. The concert will feature **Beth Griffith** ("an amazing American soprano"—LA Times). Other performers will be Daniel Goode (clarinet), William Hellermann (narrative voice), and Mary Jane Leach (voice).

Johanna Beyer is an American ecstatic avant-gardist of the '30's experimental scene, a colleague and assistant to Henry Cowell, a germinal figure in American music. She will be represented with two songs for soprano (Beth Griffith) and clarinet (Daniel Goode). **Daniel Goode's** *Re-Interpreting* for narrator (Hellermann) and instrumental ensemble, looks at the fate of the DownTown Ensemble, and by extension, all progressive artists in "our first ever" defeat by the forces of the Bush administration. What kind of revolutionary response is possible? The DownTown Ensemble has a plan. And we'll tell all. There's a live laugh track to keep out the tears.

Mary Jane Leach's *Copralalia, La La La* for two voices and tape, is her interpretation of a singer with Tourette's Syndrome. Leach is a founding member of the DownTown Ensemble, along with Goode and Hellermann. *Trope Market Phomemicon* by the late poet/composer/performer **Jackson Mac Low**, a revered poet, performer, activist, composer, and guru to many (as well as friend of the ensemble members), is for voice and instruments. He died only this winter, and we want to celebrate his work and life. **John McGuire's** *A Cappella*, for soprano and prerecorded sound, is a wonderful, mysterious music made up of small bits of vocal sounds, which was written for Beth Griffith and realized at the Studio for Electronic Music at West German Radio in Cologne.

Johanna Beyer <<http://www.frogpeak.org/fpartists/fpbeyer.html>>

Daniel Goode <<http://www.soundart.org/dnlgoode.html>>

Mary Jane Leach <<http://www.mjleach.com>>

Jackson Mac Low <<http://www.jacksonmaclow.com/>>

John McGuire <<http://kalvos.org/mcguire.html>>

The DownTown Ensemble <<http://www.soundart.org/dte.html>>

Valley Falls is 20 minutes north of Troy and 30 minutes west of Bennington.