

jazz composers **Collective**

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CONCERT DATE: JANUARY 27, 2000

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DAVID TRONZO



orchestrator on his instrument: the electric fretless bass guitar. His note choices, rhythms and ideas continually stagger me! In the Tronzo Trio, it is an unspoken rule that each musician must become familiar with every melody, part and section of each piece to the degree that would allow them to hear any of these at any tempo, in any key, inverted, compressed, expanded, and fragmented. We may start a concert or a piece from any place and anyone of us may lead the fray! Stomu and I thrive in this environment. It is our favorite way to make music.

The duo format is very important to me. It is the musical conversation in its clearest form. It really is the best way to get to know another musician and to clear the path for true creation to take place. In our duo concert on the 27th Stomu and I will play new music, some older Tronzo Trio pieces and some free improvisation pieces. The music itself will form the third entity.

I will be playing electric slide guitar and electric baritone slide guitar. I play in a bottleneck style, meaning that I adapt a standard guitar to the task of micro tonal playing by using a slide on the fourth finger of my fretting hand. When I was a child, I was completely smitten by the sound of slide guitar wherever I heard it, so I sought to teach myself. At the age of 13 I began, and immediately could envision expanding the vocabulary of the slide to allow me to play any kind of music, any style or idea. I heard then a seed of what I am now doing. This enthusiastic pursuit has energized my life for almost 30 years. I have developed a large body of techniques not before seen or used in slide guitar playing, and developed music based in the sound ideas that these techniques allow. I have found that for my taste, instrumental music is best served by a deeply personal approach to sound and idea, thereby making each piece of music into a story or sonic "play" if you will. The interpretive powers of the musician are then maximized.

I welcome you to share with Stomu and myself this concert of very special music, and to celebrate the beginning of this new year and era. Peace.

— DAVID TRONZO

David Tronzo can be heard on CDs by his Trio (*Yo Hey, Traditione and Moderne, and Roots, Knitting Factory Works*), and by groups he co-leads — *Spanish Fly (Fly by Night, Accurate Records, and Rags to Britches, Knitting Factory Works)* and *SloPoke (Redemption, Intuition)*.

MICHAEL BLAKE'S MALISSIPPI

**I was recently asked to write
some music for a television series**

that features film directors from around the globe. In an attempt to avoid sounding too "world music," I tried putting a traditional American instrument in the mix. Maybe my theme would somehow retain an everywhere and anywhere feel. I was striving for a vibe that would be effective at breaking down ethnic clichés without being too definite. What is that? An n'goni, a zither, maybe a koto? I found that "what is that?" sound in the banjo. The banjo is often thought of as a Dixieland instrument and not part of the "contemporary jazz sound." That seems strange when you consider its historical



Photo: Lourdes Delgado

importance in American folk music and especially in jazz. Well, it would be pretty funny to walk into a club and see a bunch of banjos jamming instead of your standard horns, piano, bass, and drums thing! I particularly like the six-string version and using its percussive timbre and wider range.

Guitarist Matt Munisteri and I are neighbors, but we don't get to play together much. He can rip up the traditional banjo style and also plucks out that weird sound that I'm looking for. I'm especially grateful to play with Jeff Ballard again. His original and unorthodox playing inspires and pushes me to new heights. I think Ben and Jeff have a great thing together and I'm planning on taking advantage of it. This concert is in loving memory of Curtis Mayfield.

— MICHAEL BLAKE

Michael Blake is an Intuition recording artist and has recorded three CDs for the label: *Kingdom of Champa* (his critically acclaimed debut as a leader), *Redemption* (the latest from SloPoke), and *Drift* (scheduled for release later this year). He can be heard on recent recordings by Ben Allison (*Third Eye*, *Palmetto*), the Herbie Nichols Project (*Dr. Cyclops' Dream*, *Soul Note*), and John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards (*Queen of All Ears*, *Strange & Beautiful Music*).

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THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE
invites you to attend a
SEMINAR ON
MUSIC PUBLISHING

If you have
questions about
music publishing,
TREVOR GALE of **SESAC**
will answer them.

Monday, Feb. 7th
6:30-8:30 pm
The New School Jazz
Performance Space
55 West 13th Street
5th Floor, NYC
Info: 212-995-1552

ADMISSION IS FREE

other events

THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE @ MoMA
January 14: **BEN ALLISON & MEDICINE WHEEL**
January 21: **MICHAEL BLAKE & FREE ASSOCIATION**
January 28: **FRANK KIMBROUGH & NOUMENA**
February 4: **THE RON HORTON SEXTET**
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53rd Street, NYC
Fridays, 5:30 - 8:00 pm, Info: 212-708-9491

THE MARIA SCHNEIDER JAZZ ORCHESTRA
The Jazz Standard, 116 E 27th Street, NYC, January 19-23, Info: 212-576-2232

BEN ALLISON'S KUSH TRIO
KUSH, 183 Orchard Street, NYC, Sundays, 9:30 pm - 12:30 am, Info: 212-677-7328

collective notes

- The Jazz Composers Collective's 1999-2000 concert series is made possible with the support of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust.
- The Collective would like to thank the following people for their recent contributions: Myron Beldock, Randy Chauss, Matt King, Mark Reboul, Dennis Sonnenberg, Ron Tikofsky, and Pat Zimmerli. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Collective, please send a check to: The Jazz Composers Collective, 43 East 10th Street, Suite 4B, New York, NY, 10003. For more information about the Collective and participating composers & musicians, visit our website at: www.jazzcollective.com.

THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE
presents

TRONZO/TAKEISHI DUO

DAVID TRONZO slide guitar & baritone slide guitar
STOMU TAKEISHI fretless bass guitar

MICHAEL BLAKE'S MALISSIPPI

MICHAEL BLAKE saxophones
MATT MUNISTERI guitar & banjo
BEN ALLISON bass
JEFF BALLARD drums

THE NEW SCHOOL JAZZ PERFORMANCE SPACE
55 WEST 13TH STREET (BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH AVENUES) NYC
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 8 PM
ADMISSION: \$10 (\$5 Students w/ID, Seniors)
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR (beginning at 7:30 pm)
FOR MORE INFO: (212) 995-1552