

ELLERY ESKELIN



Photo: Siirus W. Pakzad

The idea for this project came out of a weekly improvisation series

that I put together a couple of summers ago at the Internet Cafe, a computer hangout and music club in Manhattan's East Village. After putting together the series and getting to know the sounds and musical predilections of all the players in duo and trio formats, I decided to create a larger project out of the experience. With instrumentation and blend in mind, I chose Joseph Daley on tuba, Erik Friedlander on cello, Andrea Parkins on accordion, and Jim Black on drums.

Andrea Parkins and Jim Black have been two of my closest musical partners since 1994, both of them members of my ongoing working band. Andrea has developed a unique sound and approach to combining accordion, piano, and sampler, often simultaneously. She mixes Tristano inspired single note lines with punk band sonic assaults and digital sampling (inspired by analog synthesizer and musique-concrete) in her own inimitable style. She's a great foil for my more jazz based playing. Jim is aware of a huge amount of music, both jazz and otherwise, and he keeps me up on current trends. He's able to catch any inference in the music, no matter how subtle, and expound upon it immediately and in five different ways at once.

My association with Joseph Daley goes back to 1989 and was documented on the 1991 Soul Note release *Figure of Speech* (also featuring percussionist Arto Tunçboyacıyan). Joe is able to play in any context whatsoever with a completely open mind. A short listing of his performing credits include Sam Rivers, Carla Bley, Taj Mahal, Stevie Wonder, Muhal Richard Abrams, Jayne Cortez, Gil Evans, Hamiett Bluiett, Bill Cole, Slide Hampton, Charlie Haden, the Far East Side Band, and also his own Ebony Brass Quintet. I've been a fan of Erik Friedlander's work for a number of years now and am glad to have this opportunity to play with him. He is perhaps the busiest cellist on the New York improv scene. Erik combines elements of the classical approach with the openness and feel of jazz and improvisation like few players I've ever heard. I also love the blend between the saxophone and cello.

The compositions we will perform for this concert are my first for a five piece band. Some of them could be considered episodic (with overall balance being the key issue), others are cut whole from the same cloth (wherein a cyclical structure becomes obscured as to just where it begins or ends). I'm interested in the effect that each new section of music (or new piece in the program order) has on the previous one and how it affects perceptions of the upcoming one, a process that is somewhat more aligned with the technique of filmmaking than with formal musical development such as theme and variations. This process more accurately reflects the way I perceive actions in daily life.

I'm very grateful to Ben Allison and the Collective for the opportunity to present this music on their series. We look forward to seeing you at the concert, which by the way coincides with the release of *Ramifications*, our new recording for the Swiss hatOLOGY label. *Ramifications* is dedicated to my son, Rami Wade Eskelin.

— ELLERY ESKELIN

Ellery Eskelin's latest recording, *Ramifications*, is available on the hatOLOGY label. Visit Ellery's website (<http://home.earthlink.net/~eskelin/>) for more information.

RON HORTON big band
plays the music of Andrew Hill

At the upcoming concert, the Jazz Composers Collective and I will revisit the music

of one of jazz's greatest composers and pianists, Andrew Hill. Our first concert of his compositions in February 1996 was arranged for quintet, focusing on lesser-known, earlier works. Now we've decided to expand this concept and present his music in a big band ensemble setting.

It was actually Andrew himself who first suggested that I examine the possibilities of orchestrating his music for big band, after hearing a few of my arrangements for the East Down Septet. The idea was intriguing to me because I had long been fascinated by his beautiful melodies, coupled with his unique use of form, countermelodies, harmonic motion and rhythm. These are qualities that are not often realized fully in most big band music.

I am grateful to several of New York's rehearsal bands that allowed me to rehearse these arrangements in their formative stages. The ensemble will be made up of members of the Collective and augmented by the addition of several musicians, some of whom have participated in previous concerts, and others who are joining us for the first time. They have all taken time out of their busy schedules for this concert and I am honored to have them join me in presenting Andrew's music to you.

I am most grateful to Andrew himself, who has been extremely generous with his time and suggestions, and continues to be a source of inspiration to me, as well as countless other musicians and listeners.

— RON HORTON



Photo: Lourdes Delgado

Ron Horton's debut recording as a leader, *Genius Envy*, is available on OmniTone Records. Ron can also be heard on recent recordings by Andrew Hill (*Dusk*, *Palmetto*), Ben Allison (*Third Eye*, *Palmetto*), and the Herbie Nichols Project (*Dr. Cyclops' Dream*, *Soul Note*).

Board of Directors

Ben Allison
Frank Kimbrough
Ted Nash
Michael Blake
Suzanne DiMaggio
Ron Horton
Steve Holt
Rolando Cohen

Advisory Board

Andrew Hill
Lee Konitz
David Liebman
Joe Lovano
Ed Manowitz, CPA
Scott Stone, Esq.

other events

THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE w/special guest LEE KONITZ
- *Intuitive Jazz: The Lennie Tristano Legacy* -
Michael Blake, Mark Turner, Ron Horton, Frank Kimbrough, Ben Allison, Tony Moreno
Tribeca Performing Arts Center • 199 Chambers St, NYC • May 6, 7:30 pm • Info: 212-346-8510

THE ANDREW HILL SEXTET
Andrew Hill, Ron Horton, Greg Tardy, Marty Ehrlich, Scott Colley, Billy Drummond
The Jazz Standard • 116 E 27th St, NYC • May 9-14 • Info: 212-576-2232

BEN ALLISON'S KUSH TRIO
Ben Allison, Michael Blake, Mike Sarin
KUSH • 183 Orchard St, NYC • Sundays, 10 pm - 1 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.
- 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.

THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE
presents

ELLERY ESKELIN

ELLERY ESKELIN tenor saxophone • ERIK FRIEDLANDER cello
ANDREA PARKINS accordion & sampler • JOSEPH DALEY tuba • JIM BLACK drums

RON HORTON BIG BAND

- PLAYS THE MUSIC OF ANDREW HILL -
TONY KADLECK, DAVE BALLOU, BRUCE STAELENS, RON HORTON trumpets
CHARLIE GORDON, JOE FIEDLER, MIKE FAHN trombones
MARK VINCI • JOHN O'GALLAGHER • ANDREW STERMAN
ADAM KOLKER • RICK KRISKA saxophones • MARCUS ROJAS tuba
FRANK KIMBROUGH piano • BEN ALLISON bass • TIM HORNER drums

THE NEW SCHOOL JAZZ PERFORMANCE SPACE
55 WEST 13TH STREET (BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH AVENUES) NYC
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 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

