

jazz composers Collective

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FRANK KIMBROUGH & NOUMENA



Photo: Lourdes Delgado

The idea of making time stand still has always been very intriguing to me, and is an essential element in what I try to accomplish musically with the Noumena group. Spontaneity and trust play important roles as well – too many pre-arranged ideas can sometimes get in the way of or suppress that which may be attained through group chemistry and communication. Making music this way (often slowly and quietly) is the way I've always preferred to play, but it's risky business at a time when so much of what we experience with our shortened attention spans is the result of calculation, strategy, and hyperbole. Music can't exist in a vacuum though – it takes an audience to give it life, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to play this music on March 22nd. I'm fortunate to have found such empathetic partners in Scott Robinson, Ben Monder and Tony Moreno, whose creative efforts continue to inspire and, quite frequently, amaze me. Our partnership has been very gratifying over the years that we've played together, and I hope to continue for many more.

The music for our concert on the 22nd had its premier performance at the Jazz Composers Collective Festival at the Jazz Standard in February and was commissioned by Chamber Music America's Doris Duke Foundation Jazz Ensembles Project 2000-2001. Many thanks to: Lisa Stewart at CMA, the Duke Foundation, the Jazz Standard, everyone at the Jazz Composers Collective, Jon Rosenberg, Flavio Bonandri and Soul Note Records for their belief in my music and in this project.

– FRANK KIMBROUGH

Noumena's self-titled debut CD was recorded at a Jazz Composers Collective concert in New York City in September 1997, and released in June 2000 on Soul Note Records. Frank's discography as a leader also includes the trio recordings *Chant* (IGMOD) and *Lonely Woman* (Mapleshade); a duo recording with vibraphonist Joe Locke entitled *Saturn's Child* (OmniTone); and the Herbie Nichols Project's *Love Is Proximity* and *Dr. Cyclops' Dream* (both on Soul Note). He can be heard on recent recordings by Ben Allison & Medicine Wheel (*Riding the Nuclear Tiger*, *Palmetto*), Michael Blake (*Drift*, *Intuition*), and the Maria Schneider Orchestra (*Allegresse*, *Enja*).

SCOTT ROBINSON'S BRONZE NEMESIS

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.

– Robert Louis Stevenson

Ever wonder what a person could become, what one could be capable of, if all of their mental and physical potential were fully and completely realized? What if a regimen of intensive, scientific training and physical exercise were undertaken from childhood, overseen by a team of specialists dedicated to raising every capability of the human body and mind to the highest possible level of development? What if not one day, one moment, were wasted in the relentless pursuit of such a goal?

Most would probably snap under the strain. But perhaps one in a million would become a great scientist, inventor, and thinker, possessing phenomenal strength and iron determination, with an unmatched keenness of perception and an astonishing memory for the smallest detail. Add to that a strong moral character and an intense drive to be of service to humanity, and you would have someone capable of incredible accomplishments – someone able to assist humanity on a grand scale. You would have Doc Savage.

Described as "the man of bronze," a physical giant whose "strangely compelling eyes [are like] pools of flake gold continually stirred by tiny winds," Doc's physique is actually the least interesting thing about him. He is a leader in the fields of chemistry, electrical engineering, and brain surgery. He is a prolific inventor whose well-equipped laboratory produces a stream of startling scientific devices. He is an expert pilot whose Hudson River hangars (disguised as decrepit warehouses) house an eye-popping collection of airplanes, dirigibles, and autogyros of his own design. He is a noted composer whose violin music has been performed at Carnegie Hall. But, above all, it is the dangerous work of saving lives and "righting wrongs" to which he brings his remarkable abilities to bear.

In nearly 200 pulp novels published in the thirties and forties, Doc matches wits with a succession of villains, such as Madroff and the fiendish Var, and invariably spoil their party. He has saved hidden civilizations from destruction, prevented evil gangs from toppling world governments, and even fended off an invasion of space aliens armed with a deadly melody made of a succession of tones that no human brain could withstand.

Far-fetched? Sure. But these books are also prophetic in many ways. In a 1933 episode, Doc has a "robotic answering device" which records phone calls on a piece of wire. In 1937 he flies what is clearly a jet aircraft. Doc also served as a model for many later characters who borrowed heavily from his ideas, such as James Bond (all those gadgets), Superman (the Arctic laboratory retreat known as the "Fortress of Solitude"), and Mr. Spock (the paralyzing neck pinch). Doc was, in many ways, ahead of his time.

And how can one not hear music when contemplating such titles as "The Man Who Shook the Earth" and "The Secret in the Sky"? Here, then, is music inspired by the amazing worlds of Doc Savage.

– SCOTT ROBINSON

Scott's recordings as a leader for Arbors Records include *Thinking Big*, and his latest, *Melody from the Sky*. He was recently selected by the State Department to be a U.S. Jazz Ambassador for 2001, and will soon embark on an eight-week tour of West Africa. For more information, visit Scott's website (www.home.earthlink.net/~smoulden/scott/scott.html).



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other events

*BEN ALLISON TRIO with MAMADOU DIABATE
WALL TO WALL MILES DAVIS*
Symphony Space • 2537 Broadway @ 95th Street, NYC • March 24, 6-8 pm • FREE!
Info: 212-864-1414 • www.symphonyspace.org

*MICHAEL BLAKE & FREE ASSOCIATION
PREMIERE OF "MR. CAREFREE"*
The Knitting Factory • 74 Leonard St, NYC • April 7, 8 pm • \$10
Info: 212-219-3006 • www.michaelblake.net

collective notes

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- The Collective would like to thank the following people for their recent contributions: Jack Flynn & Deborah Pile, Mary Glennon, Lois Ingram, Nancy MacLean, Karen Maguire, Time Warner Foundation, Pamela Timmins, 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, visit www.jazzcollective.com.

THE JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE
presents

FRANK KIMBROUGH & NOUMENA

FRANK KIMBROUGH piano
SCOTT ROBINSON tenor & bass saxophones
BEN MONDER guitar
TONY MORENO drums

SCOTT ROBINSON'S BRONZE NEMESIS

SCOTT ROBINSON tenor, bass & contrabass saxes, alto clarinet, theremin, percussion
RANDY SANDKE trumpet, baritone horn
TED ROSENTHAL piano
DENNIS IRWIN bass
DENNIS MACKREL drums

THE NEW SCHOOL JAZZ PERFORMANCE SPACE
55 WEST 13TH STREET (BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH AVENUES) NYC
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 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 • www.jazzcollective.com

