SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



EXPERIMENTAL ARTS FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 17 6 - 9 PM SMCC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

"SONGS" 6 PM • "IMPROVISE" 7 PM • "MUSIC FROM THE DESERT" 8 PM

southmountaincc.edu





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XFEST RETURNS

Welcome to the triumphant return of XFEST! After a long hiatus we are proud to partner with South Mountain Community College to bring back this enigmantic festival of experimental music. With three back-to-back concerts curated by local free-lance musicians Ashley Oakley, Keith Kelly, and Doug Nottingham Xfest celebrates its return with a focus on the experimental music of the American Southwest. Over the course of the evening each currator will lead a concert dedicated to a particular theme of their choosing.

The first concert, "SONGS", is currated by Ashley Oakley and will feature experimental songwriters from Phoenix who push the boandaries of what it means to be a "songwriter" in the 21st century.

The second concert, "IMPROVISE", is currated by Keith Kelly and will features groups who are dedicated to improvisational art making.

The final concert, "MUSIC FROM THE DESERT", is currated by Doug Nottingham and will feature compositions from prominent composers form the American Southwest and will feature the GCC Percussion Ensemble.

Meanwhile - during the concert breaks please enjoy a performance by our partners at Oh My Ears (OME) in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

On behalf of the XFEST planning committee we welcome you all to this year's XFEST and we look forward to many, many more in the future. Experimental music is alive and well in Phoenix and we are proud to be a part of that grand tradition. And so...

Please Enjoy the Show

XFEST Planning Committee:

Josh Bennett Ashley Oakley Doug Nottingham Keith Kelly

"SONGS" (6PM)

Currated By: Ashley Oakley

Program:

HUEMONGREL (Autumn McClintock): Huemongrel delicately and deftly toes the line between the avant-garde and folk singer-songwriter styles. Her beautiful soaring voice layers on top of her guitar playing and looping and her lyrics are personal, emotional, and vivid. Recently you can find HUE-MONGREL on social media perfomring a "song-a-day" to raise funds for a planned studio space called MADE SPACE.

DAS WILDLIFE (Michael Krassner): Michael Krassner is an Arizona-based composer primarily known as the founder of the seminal music collective The Boxhead Ensemble. The Boxhead Ensemble was formed in Los Angeles in 1991 for the purpose of scoring the Braden King and Larry Stuckey documentary film The Original Pantry Cafe. In the subsequent years since its inception, The Boxhead Ensemble has continued to expand upon its outsider folk and neoclassical influences releasing several albums and scoring numerous documentary and feature films. Highlights include Two Brothers, Quartets, Ancient Music, Nocturnes and the films HERE, All Square, Feather and Pine, Day of Reckoning and the 2020 Sundance entry The Evening Hour. The Boxhead Ensemble has toured the US and Europe as well as performances at the MOMA in NY and Mass Moca. In addition to his work with his own ensemble, Michael Krassner has served as a dedicated sideman for a wide variety of artists including Simon Joyner, Califone and Adam Ostrar, as well as engineering and producing hundreds of projects.

"IMPROVISE" (7PM)

Currated by Keith Kelly

Program:

Painless Guillotines: Painless Guillotines features the improvised music of Josh Bennett and Zach Williams. Mixing electronic processing and effects with their mutual love of metal (drone, heavy, thrash, black, industial, or otherwise) Painless Guillotines creates sweeping improv sets that seemlessly move between riff and harmonic based ideas.

Slender Loris & Friends: Slender Loris is a Phoenix-based improvising duo that blends woodwinds and modular synth/electronics. Featuring the improv of Tony Obr (TSONE) and Keith Kelly Slender Loris creates stunning soundbaths of bracing individuality. Slender Loris is proud to welcome Jordan Tompkins and Seth Thorn to join them on the stage for this performance. Recordings available on Edgetone Records.

"MUSIC FROM THE DESERT" (8PM)

Currated by Doug Nottingham

Program:

Timeless Land

Choreography and performance: Nicole Bradley-Browning and Mary Fitzgerald

Director of Photography: Dmitri Von Klein Editing: Mary Fitzgerald and Dmitri Von Klein

Music: Douglas Nottingham

Elastic Alchemy

Music: Barry Moon

Performance: pincushioned (Barry Moon and Douglas Nottingham)

(from) Waldmusik

Music: Christopher Shultis Video: Hee Sook Kim

Performance: Ashley Oakley and Douglas Nottingham

Painted Desert

Video: Peter Bill

Music: Sunagi composed by David B. Doty Performance: The GCC Percussion Ensemble

American Ledger No. 1

Music: Raven Chacon

Performance: The GCC Percussion Ensemble with Josh Bennett, Keith Kelly and Barry Moon

CURRATOR BIOS

Ashley Oakley has been teaching privately for 20 years and curates a studio environment that encourages questions, exploration, and independent discovery. Through personalized lesson plans tailored to each student, Dr. Oakley helps students set their own goals and enjoy the process of learning challenging concepts.

Ashley spent her undergraduate years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was the recipient of numerous awards including two UCARE (undergraduate creative activities and research experience) Grants. She earned her Masters and Doctorate in piano performance from Arizona State University, where she served as a teaching assistant, faculty associate, and Bösendorfer competitions producer.

After completing her degrees, Ashley was awarded a postdoc fellowship from the Tureck Bach Research Institute and has performed with a wide array of local and international artists including Crossing 32nd Street, I Solisti de Perugia, Ask Not, Parameters, Oh My Ears!, Maki Namekawa, and Philip Glass. In addition to teaching privately, she is also an advocate for community music experiences and enjoys teaching in the music humanities department at Paradise Valley Community College and writing grants for various organizations.

Focusing her research on baroque and minimalist improvisation, Ashley has traveled all over the world to perform with various orchestras and research specialized techniques. Data compiled while studying in Austria, Italy, Israel, and South Africa, has greatly influenced her own teaching and ultimately led to the publication of Gestures, a series of compositions focused on developing musical expression while retaining technical accessibility. Ashley specializes in mentoring students with all abilities and discovering each student's unique learning style. She believes that music is a critical component of our culture and should be accessible to and enjoyed by everyone.

BIOS (CONT.)

Keith Kelly is a Phoenix-based woodwind specialist and composer who works primarily in improvisation-based music. Much of his original work live somewhere between the spheres of jazz, ambient, and indie-rock. As a leader, he directs the Composers/Improvisers Big Band, the jazz-rock-noise unit Ask Not, and is regularly seen at The Lost Leaf, Phoenix's hub of creative music. Other long-stranding ensembles that feature Keith's compositions include Running From Bears, Union32, and Static Announcements.

Equally at home in the realm of indie music, he has recorded with EELS, Dispatch, Califone, Michael Krassner, Casey Hurt, and Max Knouse. His recorded music is available through both Edgetone Records and his own label EX(P)HX.

Dr. Kelly holds degrees in music from the Conservatory of Music at University of the Pacific and Arizona State University. As a researcher, he has co-authored a chapter in Narratives and Reflections in Music Education (2020) and chapter on "Jazz Bands in Normal Schools" for the forthcoming An Early History of Music Education in Universities (2023). Previous collegiate teaching includes both classroom and performance coursework, and/or dissertation supervision at: Arizona State University; CSU-Stanislaus; and Boston University. Since 2012, he has served as the Coordinator of Music Humanities and Performance at Paradise Valley Community College. Dr. Keith Kelly is an Andreas Eastman Artist/Endorser.

BIOS (CONT.)

Douglas Nottingham has been active throughout the U.S. as a percussionist, performance artist, composer, music educator, recording artist and producer. As a performer he is experienced in diverse genres, running the gamut from symphony orchestras to jazz groups, contemporary chamber music to multi-media ensembles and original heavy metal bands to ethnomusicological ensembles. As a music educator he has enjoyed teaching all levels of students from elementary through graduate school.

As a solo percussionist and member of Phoenix's Crossing 32nd Street and the New Mexico-based LINKS Ensemble he has specialized in the performance of contemporary chamber works; This has led to rewarding collaborations, commissions and recordings with notable composers and performers from the US and abroad. He has appeared as featured artist at the conventions and symposia including the World Dance Alliance, Percussive Arts Society, the Society of Composers, the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States, the International Computer Music Conference and the Society of American Music. His recordings appear on the Neuma, Nonsequitor, Stradivarius and Wergo labels, among others.

Dr. Nottingham is a faculty member at Glendale Community College, where he teaches music theory, electroacoustic music, digital recording, and courses in the Music Industry Studies program. At GCC he also teaches applied percussion and directs the award-winning Glendale Community College Percussion Ensemble. In addition to his chamber, solo and creative research, he performs with the marimba groups Vespus and the Sonoran Marimba Band, the transmedia electronica collective pincushioned and the (in)famous avant-garde heavy metal vaudeville rock group, Skümbââg.