

OTHER MINDS Celebrates 15 Years with Knockout Festival

Composers Come Together from 3 Continents to Share Music, Techniques, Insights in Uniquely Nurturing Environment



From 4 - 6 March 2010, new music iconoclast Other Minds (OM), based in San Francisco, will present its 15th annual festival, bringing together some of the most innovative musical minds at work in the world today. Three days of public performances at San Francisco's Kanbar Hall (at the Jewish Community Center) will be preceded by a private five-day retreat for the composers on the verdant grounds of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in the hills of Woodside, California, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. **Charles Amirkhanian**, Executive and Artistic Director of Other Minds since its inception, says "This year's Festival represents the culmination of years of planning, and we expect an extraordinary week of shared exploration, discovery and delight, for our composers, performers, and most importantly, our audiences."

Each year Amirkhanian, together with OM Associate Director Adam Fong, invites composers of differing age, gender, nationality, technique, and philosophy to the annual Festival, setting the stage for a lively exchange of ideas. "We try to make the group as diverse as possible, to get them out of their comfort zones and generate some energy in the discussions." says Mr. Fong. "Every year we have nine composers with completely different backgrounds, but they always find unexpected interests in common, and leave the retreat with a feeling of camaraderie. It's special because these friendships are new: so many other festivals bring together composers who see each other all the time -- Other Minds makes space for unexpected connections."

Covering the full spectrum of the contemporary music scene, Other Minds 15 features three highly influential senior composers: **Chou Wen-chung**, the first modern Chinese composer to emigrate to the US, and a mentor to such composers as Tan Dun and Chen Yi; saxophonist and New Orleans jazz patriarch **Kidd Jordan**; and composer and former *Village Voice* music critic **Tom Johnson**. They will join local favorites



Chou Wen-chung



Carla Kihlstedt

Carla Kihlstedt (of Sleepytime Gorilla Museum and Tin Hat Trio), and **Gyan Riley**. Other guests include **Lisa Bielawa**, winner of this year's prestigious Rome Prize, Poland's rising star **Paweł Mykietyn**, Switzerland's radical minimalist **Jürg Frey**, and prize-winning electronic music composer **Natasha Barrett**. Featured performers at OM 15 include bassist **William Parker**, **ROVA Saxophone Quartet**, **Quatuor Bozzini**, the **Del Sol String Quartet**, **Left Coast Chamber Ensemble** and the **Gyan Riley Trio** with **Michael Manring**.

On March 4th, 5th and 6th, pre-concert discussions will be led at 7pm by Charles Amirkhonian, and concerts will commence at 8pm. The concert presentations include **world premiere performances** of two new works: Carla Kihlstedt's *Pandæ monium*, and *When Heron Sings Blue* by Gyan Riley, a piece commissioned by Other Minds. Other highlights include

Epiphora for piano and tape by Paweł Mykietyn, an award-winning work that begins with the sound of an atomic detonation, and Lisa Bielawa's arresting *Kafka Songs*, to be performed by violinist-vocalist Carla Kihlstedt.

Chou Wen-chung is unable to travel to San Francisco to join the Festival in person . He will participate in the OM 15 residency via Skype, and his music will be performed on the March 4 concert as scheduled.

TICKETS: Single concert tickets \$25–\$35 (\$25 student, \$31 JCCSF members, \$35 general); Festival passes \$60–\$150 (\$60 student, \$74 JCCSF members, \$79 general, \$150 premium seating); Students 17 and under free on concert days.

Tickets are available through the JCCSF Box Office (415) 292-1233 (M–F 12pm–7pm, Sat. 12pm-5pm), and online at www.jccsf.org/arts (JCCSF subscription series tickets also available).
INFORMATION: (415) 934-8134

For more information about Other Minds call 831-620-1332 and visit www.kathryningmedia.com.

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