



adagio sostenuto OTHER MINDS AND THE DAVID BROWER CENTER PRESENT

# THE NATURE OF MUSIC

Sunday, June 11, 2017, 7:00pm  
The Richard & Rhoda Goldman Theater  
David Brower Center  
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

Composer and intermedia artist  
**Marielle V Jakobsons**

allegretto

**PROGRAM NOTES, MARIELLE V JAKOBSONS**  
**THE NATURE OF MUSIC, JUNE 11, 2017**

*Recognition: for Prepared Piano, Sine Waves, and Macro-Cymatic Instrument (2015). In three movements.*

There is a connection between the surface of our skin and water in the cells of our bodies, and it is vibrating. "Recognition" invites you to experience a unified scale of sensation, and immerse in an intricate dance of music and visual motion. Exclusively in black and white, the gesture of the light on water turns reminiscent of pen and ink: the animation of our vibrational states by an imaginary hand.

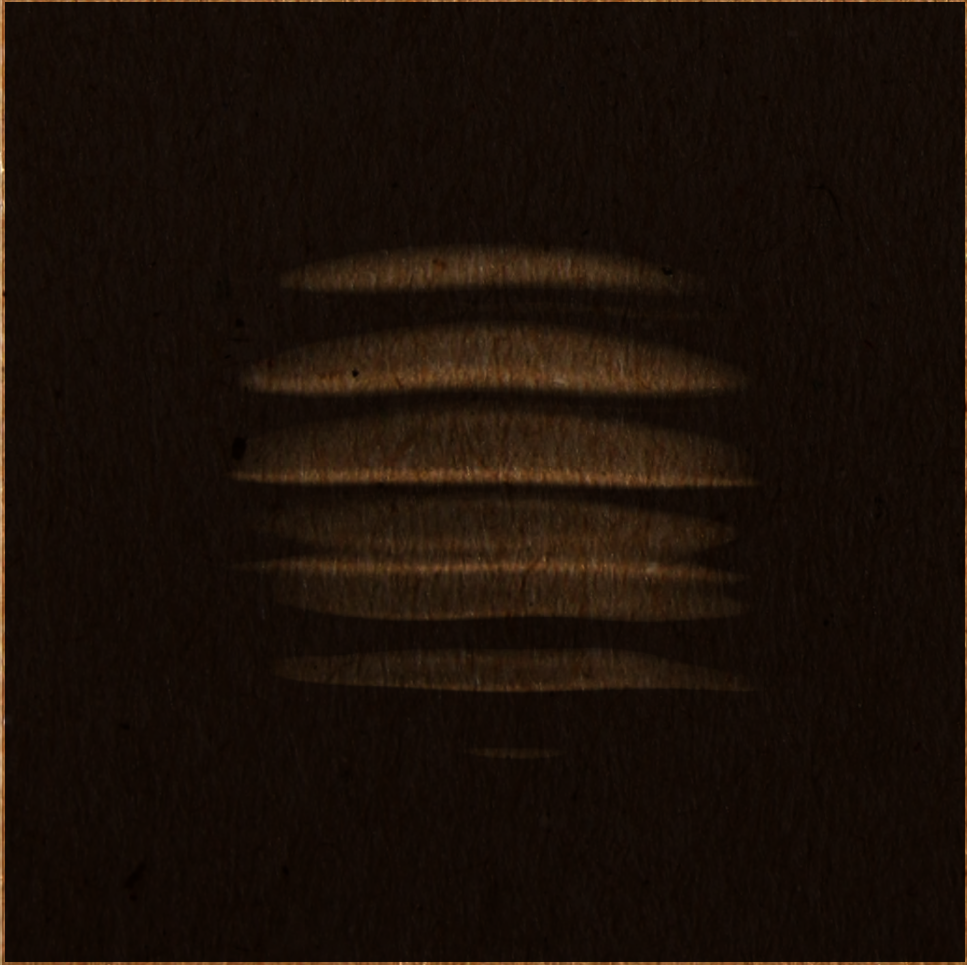
Each movement is composed specifically for the visual motion of cymatic audio at the macro-photographic scale. All visuals are created from the sound exactly as heard, using my custom-built visual music instrument. The "Macro-Cymatic Instrument" is made of a cedar soundboard with a small reservoir carved into it holding a thin layer of water. It was fabricated at the Paul Drescher Ensemble Artist Residency in 2014. The work was composed, recorded, and edited in November 2015 at the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts Residency, Wyoming.

Official Selection at LA Cine, Staunton International Film Festival and Cutting Edge Film Festival.

*continued below*

*"From the smallest sound and vibration to our all-encompassing environment, [my work describes] how the exuberance of nature is perceived, embodied, and altered by our presence."*

Marielle V Jakobsons



*White Sparks (2016)*

*White Sparks* is the story of the birth. Enveloping ourselves in nature can spark our creative spirit, rejuvenate us, and ignite our life force and core humanity. Utilizing the latest model of the DzMacro-Cymatic Instrumentdz created at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, this instrument features translucence and programmed LED lighting. *White Sparks* is from the album "Star Core," published by Thrill Jockey Records in 2016 and available in CD/LP/download.

*The Weight of the World Holds Us Together (2017)*  
*(live performance)*

We can often feel burdened or overwhelmed by the events around us, but this feeling has the ability to bring us closer and trigger collective action. An irregular pulse builds into a rhythmic togetherness, with the pulse of our breath, vision, and water. First premiered at the Buchla Memorial Concerts in April 2017.

**Marielle V Jakobsons** is a composer and intermedia artist based in Oakland, CA. Her compositions evoke minimalism with melodic drone and enveloping polyrhythmic soundscapes of synthesizers, strings, and voice. She builds installations and instruments which bring focus to visceral experience of sound and light, most recently with her "Macro-Cymatic Visual Music Instruments" – instruments that visualize music into fluid motion and light painting.





**THE NATURE OF MUSIC:** Since the music of Haydn, Dvořák and Messiaen, classical composers have been using the sounds of the natural world as source material. With the advent of reel-to-reel tape recorders that inspired composers of the musique concrete movement, we could hear sounds slowed down or speeded up to bring new ears to common everyday sources. Along the way John Cage proposed in 1952, with 4'33", a silent piece for piano, that a listener could create their own concert by simply listening to ambient sounds without altering them, recognizing that they too have form and content. With the advent of personal recording equipment like the cassette recorder, environmental sounds have been recorded, sampled and integrated into composed and improvised music. In 1970, Charles Amirkhanian and Richard Friedman launched the World Ear Project at KPFA in Berkeley. They invited people from around the world to record continuous sound for 15 minutes or longer without alteration. The result was a long-running program in which listeners driving over the Bay Bridge would be mystified by long segments of sounds of a street market in India or frogs and crickets at night in Cayucos, California.

**ARTWORK CREDITS:** Images on the front cover and the top of this page are from compositions by Luciano Ori, from the collection of Charles Amirkhanian. The close-up photo of Marielle is by Nicolas Zurcher and Tana Sprague, and the distance shot is a self-portrait. The abstract image on the other side of this sheet is by Marielle. The events image below is from an assemblage by Liam O'Gallagher, also from the collection of Charles Amirkhanian. Program designed by Mark Abramson.



**OTHER MINDS** is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms through concerts, workshops and conferences that bring together artists and audiences of diverse traditions, generations and cultural backgrounds. By fostering cross-cultural exchange and creative dialogue, and by encouraging exploration of areas in new music seldom touched upon by mainstream music institutions, Other Minds is committed to expanding and reshaping the definition of what constitutes "serious music."

[www.otherminds.org](http://www.otherminds.org)



**THE DAVID BROWER CENTER** provides a home for the environmental movement by advocating for the beauty, diversity and ecological integrity of Earth. The Brower Center accomplishes this mission through a distinctive combination of permanent infrastructure and ongoing programs in a unique civic institution that informs the public about the environmental challenges we face and the bold actions we must take if ours is to remain a living planet; inspires people to recognize their own power and responsibility to act on behalf of the Earth; and connects individuals and organizations dedicated to social equity and ecological sustainability.

[www.browercenter.org](http://www.browercenter.org)

# EVENT!

## UPCOMING OTHER MINDS EVENTS

**The Nature of Music**  
**Composer Annea Lockwood**  
Thursday, November 9, 2017, 7:00pm  
The Richard & Rhoda Goldman Theater  
David Brower Center  
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

**Philip Glass: Works for two pianos and winds**  
**Dennis Russell Davies and Maki Namekawa, Pianists**  
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 7:30 pm  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
2727 College Avenue  
Berkeley, CA

**Other Minds Festival 23: Sound Poetry**  
April 11 - 14, 2018  
ODC Theater  
3153 17th Street  
San Francisco, CA