

## Program Notes

As a performance duo, **Joshua Churchill** and **John Davis** operate spontaneously to create densely layered organic and atmospheric works, combining Churchill's dynamic soundscapes with Davis' handmade, and often hand processed, 16mm and Super 8 films. For Other Minds, Joshua Churchill and John Davis will present a collaborative performance that engages viewers in meditative and abstract environments, using imagery and sounds rooted in the environment and its natural rhythms.

*Distortions, ghostly reverberations, and ambient notes hang in the air and ethereal chords plunge into darkness before the moving images on screen, adding drama to frames that appear on fire. Fleeting sun shadows move across the film. The two elements together create a simply captivating experience, completely immersing the audience into a land of airy projector light with sounds that fill the space like a weather pattern. – Amanda Mayo, KQED Arts*

Joshua Churchill and John Davis' collaborative work has recently been featured at Dark Sea Cinema in Oakland, The San Francisco Cinematheque Crossroads Festival at SFMOMA, MONO NO AWARE in Brooklyn, and The San Francisco Electronic Music Festival.

## Biographies

**Joshua Churchill** is a San Francisco-based cross-disciplinary artist whose immersive site-specific sound and light work takes the form of both installation and performance, often blurring the line between the two. In performance, Churchill utilizes guitar, various wind and percussive instruments, field recordings, and a myriad of electronics to create waves of resonant drones and pulsing feedback that rise and fall like a dark tide. Churchill has collaborated extensively with filmmakers John Davis and Paul Clipson, and also performs under the moniker Plumes. He has previously performed in experimental drone/metal projects including Sutekh Hexen, Riqis, and Tecumseh. Churchill has been a resident at AIR Krems in Krems an der Donau, Austria, and Djerassi Resident Artists Program in California, and has performed and exhibited extensively throughout the United States and abroad.

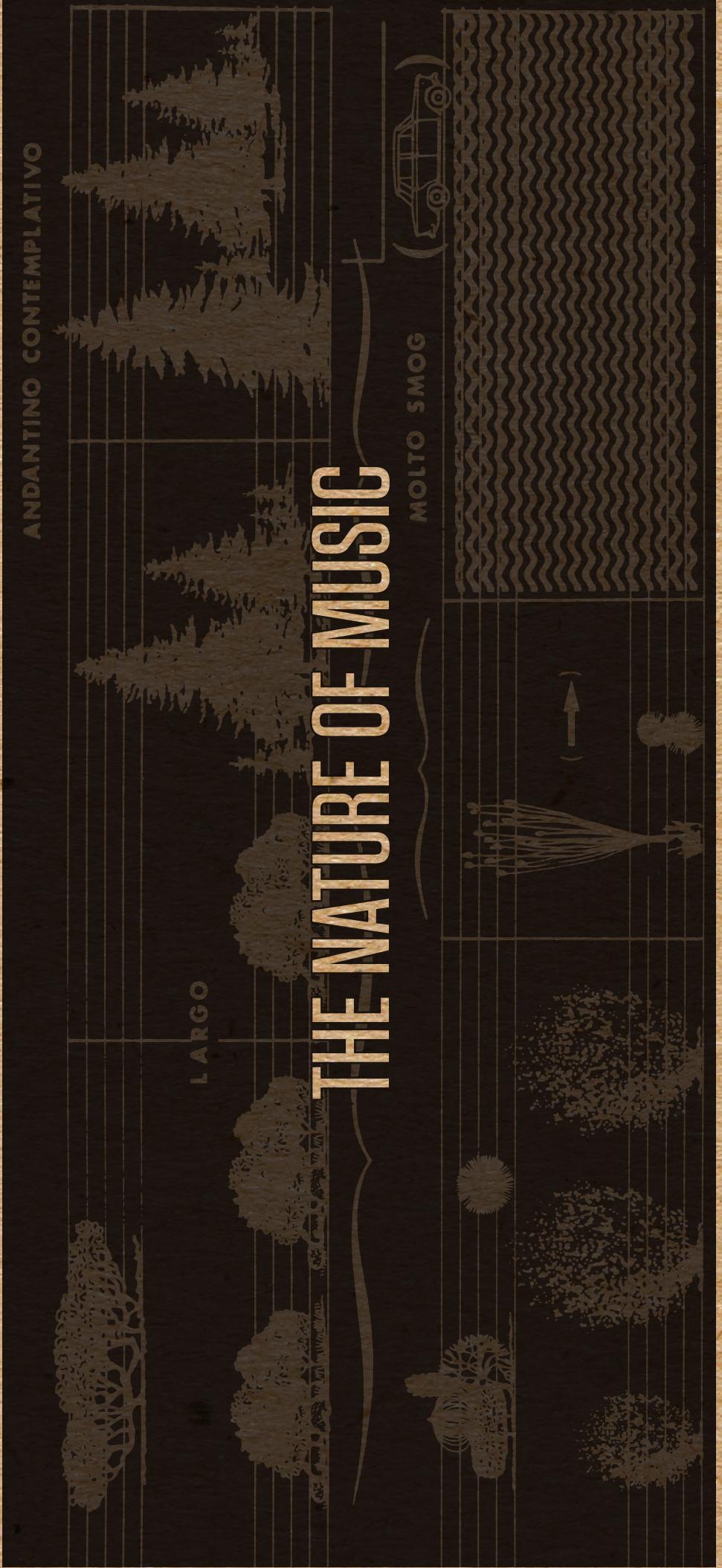
<https://vimeo.com/joshuachurchill>

Expanding the relationship between moving image and sound through live performance and studio-based projects, John Davis' work elicits sensory response through familiar and unexpected uses of traditional media. Often incorporating live performance and collaboration, John alternates as both musician and filmmaker, encouraging improvisation,

spontaneity and chance to guide the work. John has performed and exhibited in the US and internationally, most recently at Human Resources in Los Angeles, The San Francisco Cinematheque, Other Cinema, Outsound, The Pacific Film Archive, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Antimatter Media Art Festival, The Optica Festival, Instants Vidéo Numériques et Poétiques, The Milan Film Festival, The Swedenborg Film Festival, The Alchemy Film And Moving Image Festival, Transmediale, Impakt and Videoex.

<http://www.noiseforlight.com/>





**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 photographs of trees on the other side of this sheet are by Joshua Churchill. The events image below is from an assemblage by Liam O'Gallagher, also from the collection of Charles Amirkhanian. Program designed by Mark Abramson.

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**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)

## UPCOMING OTHER MINDS EVENTS

### The Nature of Music: Linda Bouchard

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 @ 7pm  
Goldman Theater, David Brower Center  
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA

### Terry Riley & Gloria Cheng Play Terry Riley

Wednesday, December 5, 2018  
Yerba Buena Center Forum  
701 Mission St, San Francisco, CA

### Dennis Russel Davies & Maki Namekawa

**Music for 2 Pianos by Stravinsky & Shostakovich**  
Sunday, February 10, 2019  
Taube Atrium Theater  
401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA

