



*Avant Media Performance
presents*

JOHN
CAGE
AT
95

SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

The lighting element during *Atlas Eclipticalis*, *Winter Music*, and *Song Books* is a realization of *Solo for Voice 19*. A total of thirty-two individual lighting cues are called according to the score, some overlap, and some repeat. Lights may be shined on nothing at all. Silence if you will. A tribute.

Cage has left us with a world where you can put together a very unusual ensemble and still perform great works of the twentieth century. A sense of play. For his contributions we are eternally grateful.

When we first started working on *FOUR*⁶ we had no idea how it would sound. We had each made twelve sounds without discussion as to their style. As composers we knew what we wanted, but would the sounds work together? Once we learned how to not listen to each other and let silence be silence the piece revealed its beauty.

With so many choices, how do we choose which one? Chance operations. Let the world make the decision.

A piece that takes longer to figure out how to play than to actually play it. This is the magic: the journey the performer must take in order to make his or her part.

With four realizations of the same piece on the program you'd think you'd get bored. The fact that 4 people can play the same piece and have it be so different is part of the legacy Cage has left. There is a spirit of experimentation in the act of performance that is elemental.

11 statements regarding JOHN CAGE AT 95

I remember vividly

the first time I heard a piece by John Cage. It was a recording of *Ryomji* and those first beautifully defiant tones from the trombone against the stark 'raked sand' of the percussion immediately changed the way I thought about music.

Most of us performing in tonight's concert are too young to have ever met John Cage, but his presence in our consciousness and thankful hearts is undeniable.

Nature is a recurring theme in Cage's work, whether star charts, raked sand, or simply letting things happen. *FOUR*⁶ has very few directions to the performer: "choose twelve different sounds with fixed characteristics." The best thing about performing Cage's work is the lesson in how to control your ego. Life itself. No judgment, just sound.

Is he amplifying silence?

Yes. Does he wish he was amplifying sound? Maybe. Does it matter? Let's find out.

Every time I think about *Solo for Voice 78* I laugh to myself, and then put my shoes back on.

One Wall – For John Cage

PRE-PERFORMANCE INSTALLATION
WORLD PREMIERE

Composition: Randy Gibson
Technical Implementaion: Mike Rugnetta
Sculpture: Guy Snover

*FOUR*⁶

JOHN CAGE, 1992

Patrick Davison – video
Performers: Scott Courlander, Darcy Fowler
Randy Gibson – electronics and percussion
Mike Rugnetta – guitar
Megan Schubert – voice

Atlas Eclipticalis

JOHN CAGE, 1961-62

Oscar Henriquez – video conductor
Mike Rugnetta – assistant,
realizing *Cartridge Music* (1960)
as a means of amplification
Chad Hammer – cello
Paolo Kapunan – trumpet
Darren Mueller – saxophone
Amali Premawardhana – cello
Jessica Schmitz – flutes
Heather Sommerlad – violin
Marie Valigorsky – viola

Winter Music

JOHN CAGE, 1957

Randy Gibson – harmonically prepared piano

Song Books

JOHN CAGE, 1970

Megan Schubert
Solos for Voice: 34, 43, 48
Laine Karma Sonam
Solos for Voice: 7, 8, 23, 26, 32, 36, 37, 54,
55, 78, 81, 89, 91
Benjamin Forster
Solos for Voice: 7, 8, 23, 26, 32, 36, 37, 54,
55, 61, 78, 81, 89

VIDEO REALIZATIONS

Ana Baer-Carrillo
Solo for Voice 19
Dancer: Kim Olson
Patrick Davison
Solo for Voice 19
Performer: Madeline Best
Randy Gibson
Solo for Voice 19
Singer: Laine Karma Sonam
Camera: Carrie Cheek
Oscar Henriquez: Silence

LIGHTING REALIZATION

Bridget Waterhouse, Vincent Vigilante
Solo for Voice 19

on the ARTISTS

John Cage

John Cage was born on September 5, 1912 in Los Angeles, California and died in New York City on August 12, 1992. He studied liberal arts at Pomona College. Among his composition teachers were Henry Cowell and Arnold Schoenberg. Cage was elected to the American National Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and received innumerable awards and honors both in the United States and in Europe.

He was commissioned by a great many of the most important performing organizations throughout the world, and maintained a very active schedule. It would be extremely difficult to calculate, let alone critically evaluate, the stimulating effect and ramifications that Cage's work has had on 20th century music and art, for it is clear that the musical developments of our time cannot be understood without taking into account his music and ideas. His invention of the prepared piano and his work with percussion instruments led him to imagine and explore many unique and fascinating ways of structuring the temporal dimension of music.

He is universally recognized as the initiator and leading figure in the field of indeterminate composition by means of chance operations. Arnold Schoenberg said of Cage that he was an "inventor – of genius".

Ana Baer-Carrillo

VIDEO

Ana Baer-Carrillo has been nationally and internationally active as a choreographer, dancer, and video-artist since 1992. She is a co-founder of Avant Media Performance and of the Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema. She holds a Licentiate of Choreography from the Centro Nacional de las Artes, in Mexico City and an MFA in Dance with an emphasis in Video Dance from the University of Colorado. The collaborative aspects of Baer-Carrillo's work have led to projects and performances with dance companies and choreographers including Performance Inventions, Kim Olson / Sweetedge, Gabe Masson, Giessen Tanz Theater and Corpus Delicti; filmmakers Elliot Caplan, Victor Jendras, and Hamel Bloom; and musicians Randy Gibson and Marcelo Gaete, among others. She has recently presented work in Germany, France, Mexico, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Patrick Davison

VIDEO

Patrick Davison is from Atlanta, educated in Vermont, and now resides in Brooklyn. He enjoys moving images, narrative twists, and angsty romances. He is currently temping/ freelancing/kind-of-working-for-people-for-free-even-though-maybe-he-shouldn't all over New York city. He wishes everything he made was a little less funny and a little more beautiful.

Chad Hammer

CELLO

Chad has been a musician for most of his life. He began his studies on the cello at age five. Chad was born and raised in North Carolina and has also lived in Kentucky and Nevada before coming to New York eight years ago. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University of Nevada Reno in 1999 and his Master's Degree in Music from the Purchase College Conservatory of Music in 2001. He has been a member of several ensembles including the Reno Philharmonic, Nevada Opera Orchestra, Nevada Festival Ballet Orchestra as well as many smaller chamber ensembles. He has performed with such varying artists as Itzhak Perlman, Luciano Pavarotti, Smokey Robinson, and Ray Charles. Currently he is the Music Specialist for the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in Manhattan. Chad can currently be seen performing as a member of the Folk-Rock Band, Lucinda Black Bear.

Benjamin Forster

ACTOR

Benjamin Forster is a theatre artist currently living in Bushwick, Brooklyn. In May 2007, he graduated from New York University, having double-majored in Theatre and Urban Design. He has performed original work at Galapagos, Starr Space Projects, and within the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU. In October, he'll perform with Abigail Browde at BAX. Laine, Randy, Bridget: Thank you.

Randy Gibson

PIANO, ELECTRONICS, PERCUSSION, VIDEO

Randy Gibson is a composer and performer whose pieces combine live and electronic elements to create sounds and textures that would otherwise be impossible. A student of seminal minimalist composer La Monte Young, Gibson's work combines his studies of world music and interest in ritual with a modern electronic sensibility. His works are often fused with visual elements creating a truly unique collaborative performance in which all elements inform and grow from each other. In 2003, with film-artist and choreographer Ana Baer-Carrillo, he co-founded Avant Media Performance; a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the creation of collaborative performance works.

Gibson has received commissions from mezzo-soprano Karie Kerner, UK marimba and saxophone duo Snapdragon, as well as several dance companies and choreographers including Kim Olson/Sweet Edge, Notes In Motion, the University of Colorado, Lauren Beale, Michelle Nance, Chantal Downing, and Courtney Krantz. His pieces have been performed around the world and at several major festivals, including the 2006 Spark Festival for Electronic Music and Art, The Dusseldorf Internationale Tanzmesse NRW, the Boulder and Minnesota International Fringe Festivals, and the Erick Hawkins Legacy Forum.

Oscar Henriquez

VIDEO, DESIGN

Oscar Henriquez is a graphic designer and visual artist living and working in London. He is a graduate of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art where he received a BFA from The School of Art. While at The Cooper Union, Oscar studied under renowned artists such as Christine Osinski, Mike Essl, Laura Cottingham, Emily Oberman, Stef Geissbuhler, and Seymour Chwast. He is interested in the intersection of video, photography and his main passion: graphic design. Professionally, Oscar has worked in the fields of publishing, advertising and most recently academics, working for his alma mater in New York City.

Paolo Kapunan

TRUMPET

Paolo Kapunan moved to Montreal in 1995 to study trumpet at McGill University. Somewhere between ear training classes and choir practice, the trumpet took a back seat to the turntables, the alter-ego "P-Love" was born, and immediately after his last exam in 2000, he was whisked away by his friend Kid Koala on a series of tours throughout North America and Europe as the extra pair of hands. Since then, Paolo has recorded and toured with acts such as Steinski, Medeski Martin & Wood, and Amon Tobin. In 2004, he was part of Sixtoo's touring ensemble, where he played everything from turntables to keyboards and trumpet and various handheld electronic devices. In 2005, Paolo performed Nicole Lizée's *RPM* with the Canadian Chamber Ensemble as part of the Open Ears festival in Kitchener, Ontario.

Paolo's debut full-length album *All Up in Your Mind* was released in 2005 on Montreal-based Bully Records and distributed worldwide through British/Canadian label Ninja Tune. He and his wife currently live in New York.

Darren Mueller

SAXOPHONE

Passionate about all kinds of music, Darren Mueller has been playing saxophone since ten years old. After growing up in Boulder, Colorado he went on to receive a Bachelors of Music in Saxophone Performance (with a secondary emphasis in jazz studies) from the University of Colorado, graduating with highest honors. While at CU he traveled all over the country, including performances at the World Saxophone Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota (2003) and at the International Association of Jazz Education Annual Convention in New York City (2004) with guest artist Randy Brecker. As part of the nationally recognized and Downbeat award winning CU Jazz Ensemble 1, he has also shared the stage with jazz artists Conrad Herwig, Tom Harrell, Jiggs Wigham, and legendary trombonist Slide Hampton. After spending a year as a freelance musician and educator in Boulder and Denver, Darren moved to the New York City metro area to begin graduate studies at Rutgers-Newark where he is studying jazz history and music theory under the direction of many of the world's leading jazz scholars.

Amali Premawardhana

CELLO

In 2007, Amali Premawardhana completed her undergraduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music, as a student of Julia Lichten.

Some of Amali's performance experiences included the Tactus contemporary music ensemble, the New Directions Cello Festival, and the New York String Orchestra Seminar. Amali enjoys participating in unique musical projects, such as "A New Wake," a Tsunami Relief concert she produced at the historic Riverside Church of NYC, through Yes is a World, an organization dedicated to promoting peace through the collaboration of young artists.

Recently, Amali has begun playing with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, which did a summer series at Carnegie Hall in 2007. She is currently pursuing lessons in Indian music with Dhruvad cellist Nancy Kulkarni and tabla virtuoso, Samir Chatterjee. This Fall, Amali will be the cellist in the newly instituted Contemporary Performance Masters Degree program at the Manhattan School of Music.

Laine Karma Sonam

ACTOR

Interested in creating work through many mediums, Laine's training reflects the diversity of her passions. She is a recent graduate of the Experimental Theater Wing at NYU, where she trained primarily in acting, though she also received training in musical composition, choreography, and directing. Prior training included: ten years of classical piano, seven of violin, oil painting at the Institute of the Art School of Chicago, writing, modern dance, and singing.

Her acting credits include *Titus Andronicus* directed by Erin Tracy, *The History of Tears*, a work directed by Nick Phillipou with music by Micheal Cerverus, created and premiered at NYU, *Woyzeck*, directed by David Schweizer, and *Drums on the Damn*, directed by Kevin Khulke. Her on-camera work includes roles on the TV shows *Rescue Me*, and *6 Degrees*, and in the film *Fur* with Nicole Kidman. Singing credits include singing for the bands Animated Coochie Wonders, The Hey!, Unisex Salon, and the Avant Media short films *Mujeres de Juárez* and *Two Sides*. Directing credits include *Love in Idleness*, a show she also conceived

and composed the music for, which was commissioned by the "NeoClassical" company, *Flashlights and Knives* an adaptation of Dennis Cooper's novel, *Period*, which premiered through the Experimental Theater Wing of NYU; *The Plank*, a short piece for the Suzan-Lori Parks 365 Festival; and *Cockettes in Wonderland*, an original play by Deena Selenow, which premiered at the Gene Frankel's Summer of Love festival this summer. Laine is currently acting for the company Witness Relocation on a piece for the Prelude Festival, and the artist Cathy Weis.

Mike Rugnetta

GUITAR, CARTRIDGE MUSIC, SOUND DESIGN

Mike Rugnetta is a New York based composer and programmer. You might have seen him perform previously in New York City, or perhaps Boston. Maybe even Vermont. But probably not in Paris or L.A. or certainly not Mexico City (though his work was there). With interests in American folk music and computer science, he is interested in what happens when these two very different perceptual contexts meet. He is, of course, honored to be part of a celebration of John Cage's life and work, without whom much of modern music would be very... very different.

Jessica Schmitz

FLUTES

Drawn to the performance of both contemporary and traditional repertoire, NY based flutist Jessica Schmitz has performed internationally across a wide spectrum of musical arts. As a featured soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player she has given the world premieres of many pieces in the US, and has also worked with such composers as Meredith Monk, Steve Reich, Robert Dick, Steve Mackey, and Harold Meltzer.

Other of Jessica's recent collaborations include those with the June in Buffalo Festival, NIME (New Interfaces for Musical Expression), TACTUS, So Percussion, Bang On a Can, Electronic Music Foundation, Chelsea Symphony Orchestra, and the New Music Ensemble at NYU. These appearances have been in some of the east coast's most significant venues, including Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, Merkin Hall, Yale University, Lincoln Center, Tenri Cultural Institute, Princeton

University, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Trinity Church, and CAMI Hall.

A winner of the Artists International Competition, Jessica has also won the Chicago Flute Club, Cincinnati Symposium, Yamaha Young Performing Artists, and the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competitions.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Jessica is currently on the faculty of NYU where she is pursuing her Masters in the studio of Robert Dick.

Megan Schubert

VOICE

Megan Schubert, soprano, will be a part of the first class in Manhattan School of Music's brand new Master of Music program in Contemporary Performance. She just received a masters degree in Classical Performance while studying with Arthur Levy. Recent engagements in New York have included performances with Meredith Monk and Bang on a Can (Zankel Hall, Merkin Hall, Mass MoCA), TACTUS (Borden Auditorium), and ICE (Tenri Cultural Institute). She received her B.A. from Bennington College where she studied composition with Allen Shawn and Stephen Siegel; piano with John Van Buskirk; and vocal performance primarily with Tom Bogdan, Rachel Rosales, and Martin Hennessy. Megan has participated in the premieres of over 25 works and song cycles.

Upcoming performances will include works by Nils Vigeland and Reiko Futing at Carnegie Hall in February, and many performances in New York with the newly formed ensemble Zero Gravity.

Heather Sommerlad

VIOLIN

Heather Sommerlad is a native of El Paso, Texas, where she performed with the El Paso Symphony, and a recent graduate of Bennington College. She has performed and taught in various places throughout the country, as well as in the Czech Republic and Kingston, Jamaica. She currently teaches violin at the Alpha School of Music in Astoria.

Guy Snover

SCULPTURE

Guy Snover studies design at the Product-Architecture and Engineering Lab at Stevens Institute of Technology. He enjoys collaborating with Mike Rugnetta and Randy Gibson. Guy is excited about the future.

Marie Valigorsky

VIOLA

Marie Valigorsky is a violist, pianist, and composer. She graduated from Bennington College with her MFA in Composition a year ago, and since then has been living in New York. She recently had a piece premiered for orchestra, and is currently working on a set of pieces for a ballet.

Bridget Waterhouse

STAGE MANAGER

Bridget Waterhouse, a native of Seattle, Washington, is currently a second year drama student at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Most recent stage management credits include Flashlights and Knives, in collaboration with fellow Cage performers Laine Karma Sonam and Benjamin Forster, and assistant on Man Is Man and HAIR, both part of NYU Drama's 2006-2007 mainstage season. She is currently assisting on NYU's production of George Bernard Shaw's St. Joan, to open in December. Thanks to Randy for including her on this project, to Laine for networking Bridget with all her friends, and to her parents for financing the educational experiment known as art school.

JOHN CAGE AT 95

September 5, 2007 · 8pm
The Kitchen, New York

Produced by Avant Media Performance

Sound design by Mike Rugnetta

Stage manager: Bridget Waterhouse
Lighting operator: Vincent Vigilante
Sound operator: Sam Crawford
Video documentation: Carrie Cheek
Piano Tuner: Kaz Tsujio

Graphic design: Oscar Henriquez
Accountant: Sally Gibson

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avant media performance

President / Artistic Director:
Randy Gibson

Vice President / Artistic Director:
Ana Baer-Carrillo

Avant Media Performance, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 arts organization dedicated to the development and production of new collaborative performance works which push the boundaries of traditional theatre. Seeking to blur the lines between dance, music, film, and performance, we nourish an environment where all members of the creative team have full and balanced input on the finished product. Since our founding in 2003, Avant Media Performance has presented work in the United States, Mexico, and Germany.

avantmedia.org

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Mets.

PARALLAX 7



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