

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

February 20: CalArts New Century Players: Contemporary Dutch Music

March 21: The California E.A.R. Unit: Young Americans

March 27–28: Cryptonights: The Nels Cline Singers, Myra Melford and Be Bread,
Alex Cline, Jeff Gauthier

April 4–5: Gamelan Burat Wangi

For more information visit www.redcat.org

THE NECKS

February 19, 2009

8:30 pm

presented by

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California Institute of the Arts

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THE NECKS

The Herb Alpert Creative Music Series
February 19, 2009, 8:30pm

The release in 1989 of the album “Sex” by Australian trio **The Necks** signaled the arrival of a unique musical force.

Comprising pianist Chris Abrahams, double bassist Lloyd Swanton, and drummer Tony Buck, The Necks work without boundaries to present music which, at any given time, could be referred to as avant-garde, jazz, minimalist or ambient. In reality The Necks are all of these, and more. But what is most remarkable about The Necks is that each performance is a piece made in the moment; never played before and never to be repeated. Their ability to conjure mountains of sound from the humblest of beginnings has garnered them rave reviews across the planet. The Necks, it would seem, are simply unique in the musical world today, and so are each of their concerts.

The Necks have fourteen albums, multiple awards, and a feature film soundtrack to their credit. For over a decade now, the group’s reputation in Europe has been growing steadily as a result of some two hundred concert performances there. The Necks now appear in Los Angeles as part of their first-ever North American tour. www.thenecks.com for more information and CD purchase.

Chris Abrahams became very active in the Sydney jazz scene in the early eighties playing with modern jazz groups including Mark Simmonds’ Freeboppers and The Keys Music Orchestra. With Lloyd he formed the ’60s modern jazz-influenced The Benders in 1982. In 1985 Chris became a founding member of the Sydney indie rock band The Sparklers. As a result of this, Chris began working regularly with the singer and songwriter Melanie Oxley. Chris collaborated with Melanie, writing songs and producing five albums, throughout the nineties. Chris has collaborated, in both recording and performance, with many contemporary improvising musicians including Burkhard Beins, Mike Cooper and Anthony Pateras. He performs regularly in the improvising music scenes both in Australia and Europe.

Tony Buck is regarded as one of Australia’s most creative and adventurous exports, with vast experience across the globe. He has been involved in a highly diverse array of projects. Apart from The Necks, he is probably best known as leader of hardcore/improv band PERIL. Early in his musical life, after having graduated from

the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music, he became very involved in the jazz scene in Australia, often touring with visiting international artists such as Vincent Herring, Clifford Jordan, Mickey Tucker, Branford Marsalis and Ernie Watts, as well as Australians Mark Simmonds, Paul Grabowsky, The Catholics, Sandy Evans and Dale Barlow. Following time spent in Japan, where he formed PERIL with Otomo Yoshihide and Kato Hideki, Tony moved to Europe, and has involved himself in many projects there, including the development of new “virtual” MIDI controllers at STEIM in Amsterdam. Tony has played, toured or recorded with, among others, Jon Rose, Nicolas Collins, Tenko, John Zorn, Tom Cora, Phil Minton, Haino, Switchbox, The Machine for Making Sense, Ne Zhdall, The EX, Peter Brotzmann, Hans Reichel, The Little Red Spiders, Subrito Roy Chowdury, Clifford Jordan, Kletka Red, Han Bennink, Shelley Hirsch, Wayne Horvitz, Palinckx, and Ground Zero.

Lloyd Swanton has been described by *Billboard* as “an outstanding and imaginative Australian bassist and composer.” The Necks are his primary focus but he has performed with many of the cornerstones of Australian music: The Benders, Clarion Fracture Zone, Bernie McGann, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Vince Jones, Alpha Centauri Ensemble, the Mighty Reapers, the Seymour Group, the Alister Spence Trio, Tim Finn, Stephen Cummings, Wendy Matthews, The Dynamic Hepnotics and the Phil Slater Quartet. His own long-running group, The Catholics, has released five albums, all produced and predominantly composed by him, with three receiving ARIA Award nominations. Their album “Simple” was nominated for the German Deutsche Schallplattenkritik Award. Overseas exposure in nearly 40 countries with numerous groups includes countless performances throughout Europe, Canada, the USA, Mexico, India, Cuba, New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea, Russia, Indonesia and Thailand. He is a three-time winner of Best Bassist in the Australian Jazz and Blues Awards. International artists with whom he has performed throughout Australia include Dewey Redman, Nat Adderly, Clifford Jordan, Vincent Herring, Sting, Jimmy Witherspoon, Margie Evans, Sheila Jordan, Billy Harper, Barney Kessel, Andrew Hill, George Coleman Jr., John Hicks & Carlos Ward, Darrell Grant, and Gary Bartz. Lloyd appears on some eighty-five albums, including several ARIA Award winners, and has produced four ARIA Award winners by Bernie McGann. Over eighty of his compositions or co-compositions appear on record. He has composed several film and TV scores, including “The Beat Manifesto”, winner of an Australian Guild of Screen Composers Award for Best Short Film Soundtrack. For the past eight years, he has hosted “Mixed Marriage”, a very popular radio program which examines crossings of jazz with other musical styles, on Eastside Radio in Sydney. He also currently sits on the Music Committee of the NSW Ministry of Arts.