



AKIYAMA / EUBANKS / KAHN / NAKAMURA

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California Institute of the Arts

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AKIYAMA / EUBANKS / KAHN / NAKAMURA

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, 8:30pm

Akiyama / Eubanks / Kahn / Nakamura

Tetuzi Akiyama: guitar

Toshimaru Nakamura: no-input mixing board

Bryan Eubanks: saxophone, electronics

Jason Kahn: drums, percussion

This international collaboration unites for the first time as legendary Japanese guitar improviser **Tetuzi Akiyama** and no-input mixing board hero **Toshimaru Nakamura** join with the acclaimed American electronic music and sound art duo of **Bryan Eubanks** (saxophone, electronics) and **Jason Kahn** (drums, percussion) to build up and unspool riveting soundscapes, as the quartet probes the dimensions of group performance and spontaneous music creation.

With the founding of the Hikyo String Quintet in 1994 **Tetuzi Akiyama** (born 1964) made his entrance onto the Japanese experimental music community. Since then he has become one of Japan's most active practitioners of innovative acoustic and electric guitar music. His playing style encompasses the approach of American primitivist pioneers like John Fahey, the acoustic guitar of Delta Blues, the electric guitar of noise and feedback to Texas Roadhouse, and the reductionism of Tokyo Onkyo music. He has appeared on over one hundred audio publications, including thirteen solo CDs. Akiyama has performed throughout Europe, North America, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, and Korea performing and recording both as a soloist and in collaboration with numerous other musicians.

As an active organizer of concerts in Tokyo, Akiyama has helped many musicians coming to Japan find places to perform, both with himself and with others. From 1998 to 2003, Akiyama and Toshimaru Nakamura ran the Improvisation Series at Bar Aoyama and then later the Meeting at Off Site series of concerts. Both of these concert series were crucially important in exposing a new style of improvised music (referred to as Electro Acoustic Improvisation) to the Japanese public and to foreign musicians visiting Japan, making Tokyo one of the global hotspots for this new approach to music.

More information: <http://www.japanimprov.com/takiyama/index.html>

Toshimaru Nakamura is one of the most important and well-known proponents of Japan's thriving experimental music community. His instrument is the no-input mixing board, which describes a way of using a standard mixing board as an electronic music instrument, producing sound without any external audio input. The use of the mixing board in this manner is not only innovative in the sounds it can create but, more importantly, in the approach this method of working with the mixer demands. The unpredictability of the instrument requires an attitude of obedience and resignation to the system and the sounds it produces, bringing a high level of indeterminacy and surprise to the music. Nakamura pioneered this approach to the use of the mixing board in the mid-1990s and has since then appeared on over one hundred audio publications, including nine solo CDs.

He has performed throughout Europe, North America, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, Korea, China, Singapore and Malaysia, performing and recording both as a soloist and in collaboration with numerous other musicians.

As an active organizer of concerts in Tokyo, Nakamura has helped many musicians coming to Japan find places to perform, both with himself and with others. From 1998 to 2003 Nakamura and Tetuzi Akiyama ran the concert series Improvisation Series at Bar Aoyama and then later the Meeting at Off Site series of concerts. Both of these concert series were crucially important in exposing a new style of improvised music (referred to as Electro Acoustic Improvisation) to the Japanese public and to foreign musicians visiting Japan, making Tokyo one of the global hotspots for this new approach to music. More information: <http://www.japanimprov.com/tnakamura/index.html>

Bryan Eubanks (born 1977) is an American musician working with the soprano saxophone, electronics of his own design, and computer music. He composes electronic and acoustic works for small ensembles, solo instruments, and custom generative software; improvises in collaboration; and, is developing sound installations exploring acoustic holography.

Growing up in the desert region of eastern Washington State, he was trained in analog photography before becoming musically active in Portland, Oregon in the late 1990s. Initially, his work was centered around acoustic improvisation, but quickly expanded to include electronics and a more varied approach to composition and the practice of making music.

He has lived in and been a part of the music communities of Portland and New York City, and is currently based in Berlin. In collaboration with Jean Paul Jenkins and Joseph Foster, he founded and operated the record label Rasbliutto from 2001 to 2010. In 2012, he co-founded, along with Catherine Lamb and Andrew Lafkas, Sacred Realism, a platform for the independent distribution of their work. Eubanks is, for the most part, an autodidact, with no formal musical training, but in 2012 he received an MFA from the Milton Avery School of the Arts at Bard College. Eubanks has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, Japan, Korea and Mexico.

More information: <http://www.sacredrealism.org/bryaneubanks/>

Jason Kahn (born 1960) is a musician, artist and writer. He was born 1960 in New York and grew up in Los Angeles. He is currently based in Zürich, Switzerland. As an electronic musician, vocalist and drummer Kahn collaborates regularly with many musicians, both in improvised settings and in the context of graphical scores which he composes for specific groups. Kahn has exhibited his installations in museums, galleries, art spaces and public sites internationally. These works focus on the idea of space: the conceptual and physical juncture points, its production and dissolution, and our relation to it as a political, social and environmental medium.

Kahn's other activities include sound pieces for radio, film, dance and theater. He has also designed numerous CD, LP and cassette covers. As a writer, his work has appeared in books, magazines and as liner notes to many audio publications. Performing regularly around the world, Kahn has given concerts throughout Europe, North and South America, Australia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Turkey and South Africa. From 1998 until 2008 Kahn ran the label Cut, releasing twenty-five CDs which included both his own work and that of many other artists. In 2011 Kahn started the Editions imprint to publish his own recordings and writings. He has appeared on over 150 audio publications, including thirty solo releases. Kahn has been the recipient of numerous grants, prizes and residencies, including the Japan U.S. Friendship Commission's prestigious US-Japan Creative Artists Fellowship Program, where Kahn spent three months in 2012 in Kyoto researching the city's modern and historical sound fields.

More information: <http://jasonkahn.net/>

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