

## **Roundtable – Graphic Scores / Structured Improvisations**

**Moderator: Ellen Waterman (School of Fine Art and Music, University of Guelph)**

### **Jesse Stewart**

#### **Biography**

Jesse Stewart is an award-winning percussionist, composer, improviser, artist, instrument builder, educator, and writer, who explores the links between the visual and the sonic arts. He has performed with many internationally acclaimed musicians including George Lewis, Roswell Rudd, Bill Dixon, William Parker, Evan Parker, Carlo Actis Dato, Dominic Duval, Frank Gratkowski, Gerry Hemingway, Joe McPhee, Gordon Monahan, Maggie Nicols, Evan Ziporyn, Michael Snow, and many others. He is currently a member of the David Mott Quintet and Nonet and Tallboys. He also leads his own groups and performs regularly as a soloist at festivals across Canada and in Europe.

Throughout his career, Stewart has made numerous recordings, including his solo album *Music for Found Objects* (2006), as well as recorded collaborations with pianist Ajay Heble, violinist Jacques Israelievitch, and guitarist Kevin Breit. Stewart's solo and collaborative musical works can be heard on the C3R label.

Stewart has an undergraduate degree in visual art and music from the University of Guelph, two Master of Arts degrees in ethnomusicology and music composition from York University, and a PhD in English and Theatre Studies from the University of Guelph. He is now a professor of music composition in Carleton University's School for Studies in Art and Culture.

### **Germaine Liu**

#### **Biography**

**Germaine Liu** is a Toronto-based percussionist and composer. Her musical interests primarily involve collaborative improvisation and composition informed by sonic and gestural connections, as well as by the sense of touch and movement. Her recent work focuses on the relationships between human and instrumental bodies by developing environment-specific pieces which explore the sounds inherent in the materials and the space.

As a percussionist, Liu has performed as a soloist, as well as with many acclaimed musicians, such as Rémy Bélanger de Beauport, Anne Bourne, Matt Brubeck, Thomas Charmetant, Peggy Lee, John Oswald, Danielle Palardy Roger, Joe Sorbara, Scott Thomson, and many others. She has participated in the Sound Travels Festival, Supermusique 07/08, X-Avant festival, soundaXis 08 festival, Music(in)Galleries, NUMUS, and AIMToronto's Leftover Daylight and Interface Series. She performs regularly in a number of Toronto-based ensembles including the AIMToronto Orchestra, Wet Dog's Dream Dance, Open House,

Rob's Collision, and Octopus.

Liu holds an undergraduate degree in music from the School of Fine Art and Music, University of Guelph, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in music composition with David Mott at York University in Toronto.

## **Nicholas Loess**

### **Biography**

**Nick Loess** is a visual artist specializing in film, photography, and multi-media works. As an artist, he explores the relationships between the visual, the aural, and the theoretical, particularly within improvised performances, natural spaces, and relational collaborations.

Throughout his career, Loess has produced both film and photo works. Most recently, he created a short film in which he attempted visually and theoretically to engage with the overlapping of the interval in and between improvised music and montage. Loess also collaborates with other performance artists, most recently and particularly with Germaine Liu. In addition to the graphic score produced for this exhibit, Loess and Liu are also working on a piece examining the relationship between the aural and the visual in improvised performance. Specifically, they are exploring the ways in which the collaborative process affects that relationship, as well as the idea of permanency in the production of a given work.

Loess has a Master's degree in Critical Theory from McMaster University. He is beginning a PhD in the School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph in September 2009, where he hopes visually to experiment with the imaginative overlap between the practices of editing and improvising, and with tracking the movements of other species through particular spaces.

## **Joe Sorbara**

### **Biography**

**Joe Sorbara** is a Toronto-based composer, percussionist, community organizer, and music educator. His practice deals equally with pre-composed and instantly-composed or freely improvised music, as well as the vast terrain between these extremes. Throughout his career, Sorbara has performed in Canada and internationally with numerous acclaimed musicians, including Anthony Braxton, Jean Derome, Dominic Duval, Lori Freedman, Malcolm Goldstein, Peggy Lee, Lee Pui Ming, Evan Parker, and William Parker.

Sorbara leads the '7-or-more-tet', Other Foot First, and co-leads a number of groups including the Remnants Trio (with Evan Shaw and Ken Aldcroft) and Duo Lassonde Sorbara (with corporeal mime, Julie Lassonde). Joe also performs regularly with the AIMToronto Orchestra, Ronda Rindone's Quorum, Ken Aldcroft's Convergence Ensemble, Nilan Perera's HolyBlueGhost. In addition, Sorbara serves as the director and co-curator of the weekly Leftover Daylight Series, now in its fifth season, and sits on the board of directors of the Association of Improvising Musicians Toronto, which he co-founded in 2003.

Sorbara has an undergraduate degree in music from York University. He currently teaches in the Music Department at the University of Guelph, where he directs the Contemporary Music Ensemble and teaches drums and percussion in the applied music program.

**Website:** [www.ovalwindowmusic.org/joesorbara/](http://www.ovalwindowmusic.org/joesorbara/)