

COMIN' OUT SWINGIN'

SYMPOSIUM & CONCERTS

Provoke Thinking About Sexuality in Music

November 16 & 17
At UBC and The Ironworks



Vancouver, B.C. - Coastal Jazz and Blues Society is pleased to announce *Comin' Out Swingin': Sexualities in Improvisation*, the first symposium of its kind in Western Canada. The symposium is presented in partnership with the Department of English at the University of British Columbia, St. John's College UBC, and "Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice," a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Major Collaborative Research Initiative. The events will take place November 16-17, 2007 from 9 am to 5 pm at St. John's College Lounge.

Improvised and creative new musics have been on the upswing in recent years, but listeners, critics, and scholars have said little, so far, about the relationships of the various forms and practices of improvisation to gender and sexuality. Compositions and performances in recent years by such prominent artists as Marilyn Lerner, Fred Hersch, Patricia Barber, Irene Schweizer, Maggie Nicols, Gary Burton, Pauline Oliveros, Lori Freedman, Steve Lacy and Irene Aebi, Miya Masaoka, Evan Parker, Peter Brötzmann, and many others have placed the cultural politics of gender directly at issue, while many recorded works from the history of improvised music and jazz (from Valaida Snow to Cecil Taylor, from Billy Strayhorn to Andy Bey) provoke a reconsideration of the music's relationship to sexuality and identity.

With an ear to addressing this gap, *Comin' Out Swingin'* will provoke, challenge, and inspire discussion and exploration of sexuality in music and other forms of improvisation. *Comin' Out Swingin'* will bring together listeners, critics, musicians, and scholars to explore a wide range of topics from jazz and contemporary musical theatre to Frank Zappa and Taiwanese opera, in a variety of papers and artist talks. Speakers include Chicago's dynamic *saxophonist/composer* **Matana Roberts**, internationally acclaimed jazz *pianist/improviser* **Marilyn Lerner**, and award-winning author and Associate Professor of American Studies at University of Kansas, Sherrie Tucker.

Comin' Out Swingin' will take place at St. John's College, conveniently located on the South side of University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus, next to Place Vanier Residence. **Registration for the conference is free of charge and open to the public.** For more information and a complete schedule, visit www.coastaljazz.ca.

In conjunction with the conference, Coastal Jazz and Blues Society is pleased to present a set of evening concerts featuring performances by *Comin' Out Swingin'* keynote speakers. **Marilyn Lerner** will perform a solo piano concert on Friday, November 16 at 8 pm, St. John's College Lounge (2111 Lower Mall, University of British Columbia). An exhilarating *pianist*, Lerner's work spans the worlds of jazz, creative improvisation, klezmer, and twentieth-century classical music. She composes for film, theatre, radio, and television and is rapidly making a name for herself in forging her own unique bridge between jazz and klezmer music. Lerner has played with some of the world's greatest improvisers including Steve Lacy, Tito Puente, Michael Vatcher, and Gerry Hemingway.

Saxophonist, composer, improviser and Chicago native **Matana Roberts** will be joined by *drummer* **Dylan van der Schyff** and energetic and soulful Vancouver *bassist* **Tommy Babin** in concert on Saturday, November 17 at 8 pm, at The Ironworks (235 Alexander Street). A New York based member of the AACM (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians), Matana aims to expose the mystical roots and spiritual traditions of African-American creative expression in her music. She has crafted a voice that not only speaks to her artistic and creative individuality but testifies, critiques, documents, and responds to the many socio-economic, historical, and cultural inequalities that exist all over the world. Matana has performed and recorded in the U.S., Europe, and Canada with her own ensembles as well as with the collaborative jazz trio Sticks and Stones, Burnt Sugar, and Savion Glover's John Coltrane project.

TICKETS available at: All Ticketmaster outlets, Highlife Records (1317 Commercial Drive) and the CJBS office. CJBS box office hours: Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm. Jazz Friend tickets available through CJBS box office only. Service charges may apply. Jazz Hotline 604.872.5200 / 1.888.438.5200 Ticketmaster 604.280.4444 Purchase online: ticketmaster.ca or coastaljazz.ca

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