

WEDNESDAYS@7 ARMS

MAY 18 @ 7PM
CONRAD PREBYS MUSIC CENTER
EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

WITH STEPHANIE RICHARDS, CATHLENE PINEDA & VICKI RAY

ARMS


Stephanie Richards – Cathlene Pineda – Vicki Ray

May 18, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center
Experimental Theater

New works by Stephanie Richards, Vicki Ray, Cathlene Pineda and arrangements of works by Igor Stravinsky and Theodore Roethke.

Armsensemble is a powerful trio of experimental musicians that explores the possibilities of improvisation, physical gesture, and experimental trumpet and piano preparations. Through a process of collaborative composition by members Vicki Ray and Cathlene Pineda on piano and Stephanie Richards on trumpet, *Armsensemble* seeks to seamlessly blur the boundaries between movement, sound, and space to deliver an experimental bricolage of vulnerable, combustive sound.

Each member is acclaimed in their own right, having premiered dozens of new works internationally, collaborating with artists ranging from Wadadda Leo Smith to Steve Reich, Anthony Braxton to Yoko Ono and Vinny Golia. Hailing from the West Coast in Los Angeles, California, Armsensemble began collaborating at the California Institute of the Arts, where member Vicki Ray holds the Hal Blaine Chair in Music Performance.



In collaboration with space, senses and surface, trumpeter and composer **STEPHANIE RICHARDS** has created a unique voice in experimental music. Stephanie has premiered her own works from stages as varied as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to smaller iconic stages like the Blue Note and The Stone, to site-specific works for carousels, pools and football fields. She has collaborated with artists such as musical pioneers and 2016 Pulitzer Prize awardee Henry Threadgill, Butch Morris, John Zorn, Anthony Braxton, composer Helmut Lachenmann and performance artists Mike Kelly, Laurie Anderson and Yoko Ono. As a founding member of Asphalt Orchestra, created by the new music collective Bang on a Can, Richards has toured the US, Canada and the UK and worked with David Byrne, St. Vincent, choreographer Susan Marshall and Tyondai Braxton. An ardent ensemble collaborator, Stephanie works with Numinous Ensemble, the International Contemporary Ensemble, TILT Brass and is set to release a new record with the James Carney sextet, featuring Ravi Coltrane, Oscar Noriega and Tom Rainey. Moving toward collaborations of punk and hiphop, Stephanie has also performed alongside the Kronos Quartet, the Pixies, Kanye West, A-Trak and Common.

Richards holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, McGill University and the California Institute of the Arts. A recent addition to the music faculty at UC San Diego, Richards also continues to encourage the performance and commissioning of jazz and new music as the vice president and co-curator of the award-winning Festival of New Trumpet Music (FONT) alongside trumpeter Dave Douglas. Stephanie is currently working toward Tri-Centric Foundation grant for commissioned scents and sounds, set to be recorded and premiered this summer of 2016.

Described as “phenomenal and fearless,” pianist **VICKI RAY** has commissioned and premiered dozens of new works by today’s leading composers. Vicki is a longtime member of the award-winning California E.A.R. Unit, Xtet and a founding member of Piano Spheres. As the head of keyboard studies at the California Institute of the Arts, she was named the first recipient of the Hal Blaine Chair in Musical Performance. Vicki has appeared at numerous international festivals and is a regular member of the faculty at the Bang On a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA. She performs regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and has been featured on the Green Umbrella Series as a soloist and collaborative artist.

Vicki’s widely varied career covers the gamut of new and old music from Boulez and Reich to Wadada Leo Smith and Beethoven. Vicki’s notable recordings include the first Canadian disc of Arnold Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire* with the Blue Rider Ensemble, the premiere recordings of Steve Reich’s *You Are (Variations)* and *Daniel Variations* with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the first recording of John Cage’s *Europerras 3 and 4*. Her new releases include Morton Feldman’s *Piano and String Quartet* with the Eclipse Quartet on Bridge Records, David Rosenboom’s *Twilight Language* on Tzadik Records and Cage’s *The Ten Thousand Things* on MicroFest Records, which received a 2013 Grammy nomination.

CATHLENE PINEDA is a sought-after composer and pianist known for her “beautifully intimate and heartfelt music” (Ralph Alessi, musician, composer and creator of the School for Improvised Music). In 2014, Orenda Records released Cathlene’s first album of original compositions, *A Week’s Time*. Grammy award-winning artist Dave Douglas, creator of Greenleaf Music, called the album “a personal statement, the originality and good taste of her composing reflect that...Pineda is a great artist who you will want to listen for and get to know,” and the *Los Angeles Times* called the album “a graceful pleasure.”

Highlights of Cathlene’s recent projects include a collaboration with the dance-theater troupe The Big Show Co. (premiered in October 2015) to incorporate original compositions with recorded memories, a commission to compose a piece for the Jane Goodall Institute and the inclusion of her featured compositions in the critically acclaimed film *Jason Nash is Married*, produced by Comedy Central Studios.

Orenda Records released *Passing: A California Suite*, Cathlene’s second album of original music, in January 2016. The album originated as a composition commissioned by the Los Angeles Jazz Society and premiered at the Angel City Jazz Festival at the REDCAT arts center. It is a suite of music based on the work of Eloise Klein Healy, Los Angeles’ first Poet Laureate, and incorporates Healy’s poetry throughout the piece. As a composer and performer, Cathlene has worked with dance companies, puppeteers, animators and visual artists. She recently performed and composed a large-scale work with multi-reedist Vinny Golia in collaboration with the dance, animation and music departments at the Jakarta Institute for the Arts as part of the festival of Indonesian Music and Dance in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Cathlene has an MFA in piano and composition from the California Institute of the Arts and a Bachelor of Music with honors from the Mannes School of Music at The New School. She is an adjunct faculty member at Glendale Community College and runs a private studio of piano and composition students.

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