

Reidemeister Move

Monday, October 8, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Robin Hayward, microtonal tuba
Christopher Williams, contrabass

Borromean Rings (2011)

Robin Hayward

intermission

Arcanum 17 (2012)

Christopher Williams and Charlie Morrow

Program Notes

Borromean Rings is a structured improvisation for contrabass bass and microtonal F tuba, written for the duo Reidemeister Move (Christopher Williams, double bass, and Robin Hayward, microtonal F tuba). Performing *Borromean Rings* might be best compared to playing a board game such as chess. Notation is used to define a field of possible moves for navigating within harmonic space. Unlike chess however the idea is not to overcome the other player, but rather to challenge them to explore continually fresh avenues within the harmonic framework and rhythmic, timbral and noise-based delineations laid out by the score.

Arcanum 17 is a composition by Christopher Williams and Charlie Morrow for contrabass and microtonal tuba, text, and field recordings set in the MorrowSound True 3D sound installation, based on André Breton's 1944 book of the same name.

Written during Breton's exile from occupied Paris, the book sees "love and loss, aggression and war, pacifism, feminism and the occult" through the prism of Rocher Percé, a massive natural arc on the east coast of Quebec. Surrealistic descriptions of the sea, gannets, flags, the northern star, and the natural environment draw on powerful images of sound and music, from anthropomorphic portraits of the local soundscape, to literal references to composers and musical instruments.

Our collaboration brings this imagery alive an immersive musical environment. Magical and paradoxical connections emerge between Breton's text, sustained-tone music in just intonation and delicate noise, and recordings of wildlife, seascapes, and tourism made where the book was written.

About the Artists

Reidemeister Move pushes the possibilities of long tones in natural harmonies for low instruments. Robin Hayward's self-designed microtonal tuba and contrabassist Christopher Williams' slow bows meld in an unearthly fusion of overtones, undertones, noise, bodily rhythms, and spatial resonance.

The members' work with Berlin's echtzeitmusik scene and LaMonte Young's legendary Theatre of Eternal Music grounds RM's precise and immersive sound. Formed in 2011, the duo can be heard on Corvo Records and Recital Recordings, as well as venues across Europe and North America.

Their name is an homage to the mathematical theory of knots.

Tuba player and composer **Robin Hayward**, born in Brighton, England in 1969, has been based in Berlin since 1998. He has redefined the tuba's potential both in the areas of noise and microtonality, and his compositions for other instruments reflect a similar experimental, medium-specific approach. He has toured extensively both solo and in collaboration, and been featured in such festivals as Maerzmusik and Fri Resonans.

Collaborations include such luminaries as Charles Curtis and Roberto Fabbriciani along with leading composers such as Christian Wolff and Alvin Lucier. His approach to the tuba has been documented in the solo CDs *Valve Division* and *States of Rushing*, as well as various collaborative releases.

In 2009 Robin Hayward developed the first fully microtonal tuba together with the music instrument manufacturers B&S, and in 2011 published an extensive article on this new tuba in the *Galpin Society Journal*, tracing its history back to the original tuba patent of 1835. He is currently doing a doctorate on the acoustics of the recently developed microtonal tuba at the Technical University in Berlin.

Charlie Morrow (b. 1942 Newark, New Jersey, USA), is a conceptualist whose music and sound work explores many styles and forms, from events for media and public spaces to commercial soundtracks, new media productions, museum installations and programming for broadcast and festivals.

Throughout his career, Morrow has sought to bring experimental sound and music to a wider audience. His works have ranged from massive free public events, such as “Toot’N Blink” for Chicago’s Lake Michigan and “Fanfare in the Air” for New York Harbor to innovative installations for the world’s leading institutions, including Kennedy Space Center, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Taking sound to the next level, Morrow most recently created MorrowSound®, a state-of-the-art technology at the forefront of the rapidly-expanding field of 3D sound. It has been showcased at major venues and events, including the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics and the recently opened Magic Forrest and Aviary at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus OH.

A 3-CD retrospective of Charlie’s sound recordings, *Toot!*, was published by XI Records in 2011. And most recently, *Toot! Too*, an LP collecting his event-music from 1970-2014 was published by Recital in 2017.

Christopher Williams (1981, San Diego) is a wayfarer on the body-mind continuum. His medium is music. He holds a B.A. from the University of California San Diego, where he studied under Charles Curtis, Chaya Czernowin, and Bertram Turetzky; and a Ph.D. from the University of Leiden (NL), where his advisors were Marcel Cobussen and Richard Barrett.

As a composer and contrabassist, Williams’s work runs the gamut from chamber music, improvisation, and radio art to collaborations with dancers, sound artists, and visual artists. Performances and collaborations with Derek Bailey, Jodi Carboni, Compagnie Ouïe/Dire, Charles Curtis, LaMonte Young’s Theatre of Eternal Music, Ferran Fages, Barbara Held, Robin Hayward (as Reidemeister

Move), Christian Kesten, Hans W. Koch, filmmaker Zachary Kerschberg, Christina Kubisch, Maulwerker, Charlie Morrow, David Moss, Andrea Neumann, Mary Oliver and Rozemarie Heggen, Ben Patterson, Robyn Schulkowsky, Tanja Smit, Martin Sonderkamp, and Vocal Constructivists. In addition to appearing in various North American and European experimental music circuits, this work has been presented by VPRO Radio 6 (Holland), Deutschlandradio Kultur, the Museum of Contemporary Art Barcelona, Volksbühne Berlin, and the American Documentary Film Festival.

Williams' artistic research on improvisation, notation, and his body-mind continuum has been presented at major universities and international conferences in North America, Europe, and India, and published in numerous journals and book chapters including *Journal for Artistic Research*, *Journal of Sonic Studies*, *Open Space Magazine*, *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, *TEMPO*, and *Experiencing Liveness in Contemporary Performance* (Routledge). Williams has received scholarships, grants, and prizes from the University of California, the Darmstadt Summer Courses, the Arts Council of Catalunya, Goethe Institut, Hauptstadtkulturfonds Berlin, Festival Acanthes, and the American Documentary Film Festival.

He also co-curates the Berlin concert series KONTRAKLANG, and works with immersive sound experience designer Charles Morrow Productions

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David Espiritu, Jr. - Theatrical Production Specialist
Caroline Louise Miller, composer - chimes