

# Kyle Motl

## Solo Contrabass

February 24, 2017 - 7:00PM  
Conrad Prebys Music Center  
Experimental Theater

### Metatropes

At the heart of my solo music is an ongoing interest in exploring the limits of the contrabass. In solo improvisation, I am free to plumb the instrument's wealth of sonorities, pushing sound to its breaking point and revealing the extremities of technique, timbre, and dynamic envelope. This also presents a platform for the artifacts from other musical endeavors as varied as free jazz, contemporary concert music, and noise, to become refracted, transformed, and recontextualized.

An ever evolving work, *Metatropes* constantly looks back on itself while pushing forward, embracing the idiosyncrasies of intuition.

### a few thoughts

I first began to use *Metatropes* as the title for my extended solo bass performances a few years ago when I needed to title it for a conference proposal. It was a semi tongue-in-cheek title that I could use to describe my solo music, referencing the continual development of self reflection of any solo practice.

In December, I spent 3 days recording (mostly) improvised solo bass pieces. Over the course of a few weeks, I whittled about 400 minutes of music down to 15 pieces totaling 51 minutes. Selections from those 15 pieces form the backbone of the performance tonight. Some are ideas I've been developing for years, others are relatively new.

The first unaccompanied solo bass concert I played was on a noise series curated by Kenny Millions (formerly know as Keshavan Maslak). At the time, I was frequently working with electronics and, reflecting on it, acousmatic music was a significant influence on my solo playing at the time. Now, the music is certainly more explicitly about playing the bass... It seems appropriate to have begun this journey sandwiched between deafening sets of an amplified tom adorned with sporks dancing to its own feedback.

### A debt of gratitude to:

Mark Dresser, Mom & Dad, Tobin Chodos, Kjell Nordeson, Madison Greenstone, TJ Borden, Fernanda Navarro, Chris Golinski, Tommy Babin, Anthony Davis, David Borgo, Peter Kuhn, Nathan Hubbard, and many more. You, the audience, for being here. Jessica, David, Jeremy, Dan, and the production team for realizing everyone's projects here at UCSD.