Advance Program Notes

Pamela Z
Sunday, April 10, 2016, 3 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Pamela Z

This afternoon's program consists of works for voice with processing, samples, gesture controllers, spatialized sound, and interactive video. It is the culmination of Pamela Z's week-long visiting artist residency with the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech. During her time here, she has been exploring the unique spatial sound projection capabilities of the Cube; working in collaboration with faculty member Eric Lyon, associate professor in the School of Performing Arts, to create new work designed specifically for the Cube; and adapting some of her existing solo works for this highly innovative immersive space.

Presented in partnership with the School of Performing Arts

Biography

PAMELA Z

Pamela Z is a composer/performer and media artist who works primarily with voice, live electronic processing, sampled sound, and video. A pioneer of live digital looping techniques, she processes her voice in real time to create dense, complex sonic layers. Her solo works combine experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, and sampled concrète sounds. She uses MAX MSP and Isadora software on a MacBook Pro, along with custom MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound and image with physical gestures. Her performances range in scale from small concerts in galleries to large-scale multi-media works in theatres and concert halls. In addition to her performance work, she has a growing body of inter-media gallery works, including multi-channel sound and video installations.

Pamela Z has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, performing in international festivals, including Bang on a Can at Lincoln Center (New York), La Biennale di Venezia (Italy), the Interlink Festival (Japan), Other Minds (San Francisco), and Pina Bausch Tanztheater's 25 Jahre Fest (Wuppertal, Germany). She has composed, recorded, and performed original scores for choreographers and for film/video artists, and she has done vocal work for other composers, including Charles Amirkhanian, Vijay Iyer, and Henry Brant. Her large-scale, multi-media performance works, *Parts of Speech, Gaijin, Voci,* and *Baggage Allowance,* have been presented at many venues, including the Kitchen in New York, Theater Artaud and ODC Theater in San Francisco, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Theatre in Chicago, as well as at theatres in Washington, D.C. and Budapest, Hungary. Her one-act opera, *Wunderkabinet,* inspired by the Museum of Jurassic Technology and co-composed with Matthew Brubeck, premiered at The LAB Gallery in San Francisco and was presented at REDCAT in Los Angeles and Open Ears Festival in Canada. She has shown media works in exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; Erzbischöfliches Diözesanmuseum in Cologne; the Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York; the Dakar Biennale in Sénégal; Krannert Art Museum in Illinois; and the Kitchen in New York.

Pamela Z has received chamber music commissions from Kronos Quartet, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Ethel String Quartet, the California E.A.R. Unit, the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, the Empyrean Ensemble, and St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra. She curates and produces the *ROOM Series,* a San Francisco avant-chamber series, featuring the work of a variety of virtuosic solo artists and chamber groups playing experimental music. She has collaborated with a wide range of artists, including Joan La Barbara, Joan Jeanrenaud, Brenda Way (ODC Dance), Miya Masaoka, Jeanne Finley + John Muse, Shinichi Iova Koga (Inkboat), and Luciano Chessa. Her interactive web-based work, *Baggage Allowance,* can be viewed at baggageallowance.tv, where it is permanently installed.

Pamela Z is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Doris Duke Artist Impact Award, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Creative Capital Fund, the MAP Fund, the ASCAP Music Award, an Ars Electronica honorable mention, and the NEA/Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Fellowship. She holds a music degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. For more information about Pamela Z, please visit www.pamelaz.com.

Engagement Activities

Wednesday, April 6, 2016
CLASS VISIT WITH PAMELA Z
Members of the graduate poetry workshop led by Erika Meitner, associate professor of English and director of Virginia Tech's Creative Writing MFA Program, will meet with Pamela Z to learn about her creative process and what inspires her work.

Special thanks to Eric Lyon and Erika Meitner

In the Galleries

Artist Spotlight: John F. Simon Jr.
John F. Simon Jr. is a digital art pioneer and a leading code or software artist, working with the creation of visual language to present data in an expressive and meaningful way. The computer-generated works on display in this exhibition use rhythm, pattern, form, and color to create an endless non-repeating series of visual compositions that re-define what a "painting" can be in the 21st century.

ArtSpeak: What is code?
Code is a sequence of data that serves as the rules or instructions for a computer program. Entering code is called "coding" or "programming." The earliest computer coding language was binary code, a system using only 0 and 1, but modern code languages, such as HTML, XML, or C++, are entered as alphanumeric text. In code art, the artist inputs a sequence of commands and rules into a system, then allows the resulting program to run on its own, generating new and non-repeating images ad infinitum.

***DATAStream:* John F. Simon Jr.**
February 4–April 17, 2016
Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor and Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery

DATAStream
February 4–May 7, 2016
All galleries

DIANA COOPER: *HIGHWIRE*
On view through spring 2018
Grand Lobby

GALLERY HOURS
Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; interesting and free!