

No. 176  
November 21, 2003  
Immediate Release

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**THE WALKER ART CENTER PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
SAN FRANCISCO-BASED JAZZ COMPOSER/PIANIST JON JANG AND  
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE ZEITGEIST'S *NEW BEGINNINGS***

"Jang [is] one of the jazz world's most gifted younger pianists and composers."  
—*The Boston Globe*

Innovative San Francisco-based jazz composer/pianist **Jon Jang** (Max Roach, David Murray) and Twin Cities contemporary music champions **Zeitgeist** perform a series of new compositions by Jang on Saturday, December 13, at 8 pm in the Walker Art Center Auditorium. Coming together for the first time, Zeitgeist and composer/improviser Jang deliver an evening of exuberant musical fare infused with Jang's Chinese American heritage, the spirit of Max Roach, gritty politics, and the irrepressible freshness of all things nascent. Drawing on his experiences as the father of an adopted baby girl from China, *New Beginnings* explores the possibilities of an American culture that learns to "adopt" Chinese musical history as part of a new and changing cultural landscape. Works will include Jang's *Come Sunday June 4, 1989 from Tiananmen!*; Interludes from *Island: the Immigrant Song*; *When Snake Celebrates the Golden Dance*; *Temple of the Drum*, for violin and piano; solo piano works performed by Jang; plus improvisations created by the entire ensemble.

**Jon Jang**

Jon Jang began piano lessons at the age of 19, and after two years of study, was accepted at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and awarded the Lydia Lord Davis scholarship. He studied piano with Wilbur Price and composition with Wendell Logan. After three years of study at the

(more)

Conservatory, Jang received a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance in 1978. Drawing artistic inspiration from Chinese folk songs, American jazz, and the human rights and political issues of our time, he has followed his own path of creating music, which has become "two flowers on a stem," a metaphor expressing the symbiotic relationship of his cultural identity as a Chinese American as well as his musical philosophy of honoring tradition and encouraging innovation. "My music does not come from the third stream, but the flowing stream."

Jang has received composer commissions from The Library of Congress, Kronos Quartet, Chanticleer, and others, and has received major grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, Rockefeller, Creative Work Fund, and Creative Capital. He has composed scores for Renee Tajima-Pena's Asian American road documentary film, *My America ... or Honk, if You Love Buddha*, as well as the dramatic adaptation of Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*, which was staged at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre in Boston, and Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. Jang also scored two dance works, *Silk Roads*, and *Mandala*, for choreographer Dana Tai-Soon Burgess that premiered at Eisenhower Hall at the Kennedy Center in December 2001.

Jang was selected as the first alumnus from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music to receive the Distinguished Achievement Award from Oberlin College along with television comedy sitcom director/producer James Burrows, and was one of six recipients to be awarded a grant from Meet The Composer's New Residencies program to serve as a composer in residence for three years in the San Francisco Bay Area. *JAZZIZ* recognized Jang as "one of the most influential artists who have changed jazz since 1983"; throughout the 1990s, he has been consistently recognized in the composer category of *Downbeat's* Annual International Critics Poll. In recognition of Asian Americans' contributions and accomplishments in the field of arts and entertainment, he received the Golden Ring award along with Chow Yun Fat, Joan Chen, and Wayne Wang in 1995. Jang has been nominated twice for the Cal Arts Alpert Award in the Arts.

As a pianist and artistic director of ensembles, Jang's ensembles have toured at major concert halls and music festivals in China, South Africa, Europe, Canada, and the United States. Four months after the elections ending apartheid in South Africa, Jang was honored as the first musician from San Francisco invited to perform in the Arts Alive Festival in Johannesburg.

Last year, as part of the Beijing Trio with Max Roach and Jiebing Chen, he toured Zurich, Berlin, Milan, and the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Jang last appeared in the Twin Cities in 2000 for the premiere performance of his collaboration with James Newton, *When Sorrow Turns to Joy—Songlines: The Spiritual Tributary of Paul Robeson and Mei Lanfang* at the Walker Art Center, a piece commissioned by the Walker and Cal Performances, University of California at Berkeley.

## **Zeitgeist**

Dedicated to the music of our time, Zeitgeist is one of the oldest and most successful new music groups in the nation and is known for its eclectic repertoire, adventurous and irrepressible nature, and formidable improvisational prowess. Zeitgeist's members are Heather Barringer and Patti Cudd, percussion; Patrick O'Keefe, woodwinds; and Anatoly Larkin, piano.

Founded in 1977, Zeitgeist's mission is to enliven today's music and expand its public with performances that absorb, stimulate, and hearten. Dedicated to contemporary music, in particular the music of the past 20 years, Zeitgeist has commissioned and performed music by both emerging composers and some of the finest established composers of our time, including John Cage, Frederic Rzewski, Terry Riley, Eric Stokes, Harold Budd, La Monte Young, Annie Gosfield, Martin Bresnick, Mark Applebaum, Arthur Kreiger, Eleanor Hovda, Brent Michael Davids, Paul Dresher, Mary Ellen Childs, and Janika Vandervelde.

Zeitgeist has performed at prestigious venues throughout the U.S. and Europe, including Merkin Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and The Kitchen in New York; at the Los Angeles County Museum's contemporary music series; The Festival of New American Music, Sacramento; several appearances at New Music America (New York, Minneapolis, and Miami); and in many other U.S. cities, including Seattle, Phoenix, Cleveland, St. Louis, Des Moines, San Francisco, Helena, and, in Minnesota, New Ulm, Grand Rapids, St. Cloud, Duluth, and Rochester, among others. The ensemble has conducted six European tours, performing in Lisbon, Bonn, London, Zagreb, Berlin,

Cologne, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Finland. Zeitgeist performs frequently in the Twin Cities, and enjoys a special relationship with the Walker Art Center and The Southern Theater.

Zeitgeist has released four compact discs: *She's a Phantom*, music of Harold Budd (New Albion Records); *Intuitive Leaps*, music of Terry Riley (Work Music London and Sony Music Entertainment); *A Decade*, music of Frederic Rzewski (O.O. Discs); and *Eric Stokes* (New World Records). The ensemble's newest CD, *If Tigers Were Clouds*, will be released on the Innova label. Individual works can be heard on *Earthworks*, featuring the music of Steve Heitzeg (Innova), and *Opere Della Musica Povera*, featuring the music of Martin Bresnick (CRI).

A non-profit organization incorporated in Minnesota, Zeitgeist receives generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, COMPAS, the Target Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, Chamber Music America, Meet The Composer/Arts Endowment Commissioning Music/USA, the Aaron Copland Fund, and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature.

### **Heather Barringer**

Percussionist/artistic co-director Heather Barringer joined Zeitgeist in 1990. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a BA in Music Education in 1987 and studied at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory, studying with Allen Otte from 1988-1990. In addition to performing and recording with Zeitgeist, she is a member of Mary Ellen Child's ensemble, Crash, and has worked with many Twin Cities organizations, including Nautilus Music Theater Ensemble, The Dale Warland Singers, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Ten Thousand Things Theater.

### **Patti Cudd**

As an active performer of the music of the 20th century, Patti Cudd has given concerts and master classes throughout the United States, China, Mexico, and Europe. She has commissioned a number of new pieces from the composers of her generation and has given nearly 100 premieres. Prior to joining Zeitgeist in 1999, she received a DMA in Contemporary Musical Studies at the University of California, San Diego; a MM from SUNY Buffalo; and a BFA from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Cudd teaches percussion and new music at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

### **Pat O'Keefe**

Woodwind player and artistic co-director Pat O'Keefe is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and Indiana University. He recently completed his doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego. In San Diego, he performed regularly with the new music ensembles SONOR and SIRIUS as well as with the San Diego Symphony. He is actively involved in other musical endeavors as well, such as free improvisation and world music; is a founding member of the improvisation group Unbalancing Act; and has appeared in concert with such notable improvisers as George Lewis, Wadada Leo Smith, and J.D. Parran.

### **Anatoly Larkin**

Anatoly Larkin was born in Russia in 1979. He received his primary musical training at the age of five, beginning piano lessons at six. In 1992, his family moved to Glasgow, Scotland, where he continued with his musical education studying both piano and composition. In 1996 he was accepted into the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in 2000. Later that year he moved to Minneapolis to pursue Piano Performance (Graduate Program) at the University of Minnesota, studying under Alexander Braginsky. Larkin has been active as a performer in various fields, playing solo-chamber-recitals and appearing with orchestras as well as promoting new music by living composers.

### **Yuri Merzhevsky**

Yuri Merzhevsky was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He received his training in the Leningrad Conservatory of Music, and received his Ph.D. in 1988. Subsequently, he served as a professor of violin on the faculty there. He has served as concertmaster in several orchestras, such as the Leningrad Conservatory Orchestra and the Hermitage Orchestra. In 1989, Merzhevsky immigrated to the United States, where he has played as a soloist with the Minnesota Sinfonia, Members of the Utah Symphony, Olympia Chamber Orchestra, Plymouth Music Series, and various chamber music groups. In addition to his involvement in contemporary music, he also performs jazz, klezmer, and gypsy music. He has performed with Zeitgeist since 1997.

Tickets for Jon Jang and Zeitgeist: *New Beginnings* are \$16 (\$8 Walker members) and are available at the Walker box office or by calling 612.375.7622; or visit [www.walkerart.org/tickets/](http://www.walkerart.org/tickets/).

Patrons with special needs are asked to call two weeks in advance.

The Walker Art Center's Performing Arts Program is generously supported by funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Fund for Jazz and Dance and the Doris Duke Performing Arts Endowment Fund.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,  
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.  
For public information, call 612.375.7622.  
Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm;  
Thursday, 10 am–9 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm; closed Monday.  
<http://www.walkerart.org>**