

Program for December 7, 2008 10:30 am

Welcome message from Felix Wurman:

"Welcome to the forty-second convention of the Church of Beethoven. Forty-two distinct programs made available to New Mexicans in (almost) as many weeks. Today we depart from our usual classical fare to bring you jazz. Le Chat Lunatique plays a very specific style of jazz developed by Django Rinehart and Stephane Grapelli at the famous Hot Club de Paris. No mere imitators, Le Chat has their own special take on this music. Very original, and of a very high caliber. They were a hit last time they were here so they're back. Thanks boys. Also on the program the very accomplished poet, Amy Shea. Thanks for being here Amy and thanks to David Sinkus of the Filling Station, Cindy Young, videographer, Leslie Merriman, administrator, Katie and Billie Joe from EspressoArtists and YOU, the audience, for your generous support. This endeavor is totally unique. Go Albuquerque!"

Program

Poem: "I forgot, remembered" by Amy Shea

Music: Set 1. Le Chat Lunatique

Muni Kulasinghe, violin/vocals John Sandin, guitar/vocals
Jared Putnam, bass/vocals Fernando Garavito, drums/vocals

Celebration of Silence: Two minutes

Essay: "Motherhood" by Amy Shea

Collection: Think generosity and abundance. Think fifteen bucks.

Music: Set 2. Le Chat Lunatique

Muni Kulasinghe, violin/vocals John Sandin, guitar/vocals
Jared Putnam, bass/vocals Fernando Garavito, drums/vocals

Today's Artists

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico to Sri Lankan parents, Muni Kulasinghe spent his formative school years in the sunny southwest and summers sojourning in serendipitous Sri Lanka. At 7 years old, he began the violin because he wanted to be like his older sister. By 18, in addition to tripping with aforementioned parentals, he'd traveled extensively with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, including destinations like London and Mexico City. He even, to his own shock and awe (and a bit of horror), had been selected as a senior concerto winner where he performed in front of 2,000 of his closest friends at the University of New Mexico's Popejoy Hall.

At Colorado College, he was lucky enough to fall in with the Bowed Piano Ensemble, a well known group in the world of experimental music, with whom he toured much of Western Europe (twice!). In Oslo, Norway, during their first tour they were even on the same bill as Herbie Hancock! (He still shakes his head when he thinks about it). He also played with jazz guitarist Faouzi Chkelli, and various rock and funk bands infused with North African sensibilities; at one point he even gave a solo concert at L'Etoile de Nord.

Upon his return stateside, he rejoined friends in the Buntport Theater in Denver, with whom he put on plays, including a comic musical re-working of "Titus Andronicus", for which he wrote and played most of the music. He also rejoined another friend, Thaddeus Phillips of New York, to create and perform "The Earth's Sharp Edge" at La MaMa Theater in NYC and the Painted Bride in Philadelphia (among other venues). For one year he again left these august shores to play gypsy swing in Montpellier, France. He learnt a great deal about cheese, wine and not brushing his teeth. At present, Muni can be found in Albuquerque once again, engaged in studies of Ethnomusicology at UNM and playing dirty, filthy, mangy and lascivious Gypsy Swing with the ever so lovely Le Chat Lunatique.

Guitarist John Sandin has been playing music for seventeen years. He received his Bachelor of Music guitar with Michael Anthony, 25-year Los Angeles studio veteran and local jazz hero. John also had the great opportunity to be exposed to many styles of jazz playing in UNM Jazz Bands under the tutelage of Glenn Kostur. John has played with many local groups over the past decade. The Melizmatix, a lounge-y funk trio, have been the Reptilian Lounge House Band at the Tricklock Theatre Company for five consecutive years. In addition, The Melizmatix held down a weekly happy hour gig at the swank OPM nightclub in downtown Albuquerque. The Sidestreet Strut Swing Sextet, featuring some of Albuquerque's great