

# WET INK



**" ... the fantastic Wet Ink Ensemble combined striking stylistic and aesthetic assurance with technical perfection."**

-Torsten Möller, *Dissonanz* (Switzerland)

# MISSION

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"Staggering performances..."

-*Sound Projector* (UK)

"Dense, wild, yet artfully controlled..."

-*The New York Times*

The Wet Ink Ensemble is a unique collection of composers, improvisers and interpreters committed to making adventurous music. With a 16-year history of outstanding achievement in the programming and presentation of contemporary music, Wet Ink has earned an international reputation as one of the most innovative and virtuosic ensembles working today.

Wet Ink most commonly performs as a septet comprised of a core group of composer-performers that collaborate in a band-like fashion, writing, improvising, preparing, and touring pieces together over long stretches of time. This approach has led to an incomparable body of work marked by a keenly developed performance practice, played in concert with ferocity, commitment, and expressivity seldom found in performances of contemporary music.

A consistent advocate for young musicians, Wet Ink has commissioned, premiered and recorded numerous works by emerging composers. The group has also collaborated with a wide range of highly-renowned artists including George Lewis, Evan Parker, Christian Wolff, and the AACM composers (during a 2-night retrospective at The Kitchen in 2008), and has introduced NYC audiences to major European figures including Peter Ablinger, Mathias Spahlinger, and Beat Furrer.

Wet Ink takes a multifaceted approach to the presentation and promotion of adventurous music. The group regularly functions as The Wet Ink Large Ensemble, a flexible roster of over twenty NYC-based soloists dedicated to ambitious, large-scale projects. This season's Large Ensemble highlights include a portrait concert of Anthony Braxton's music at National Sawdust in NYC (January), and the inaugural Large Ensemble Readings Project (June), an exciting initiative which provides 3 composers the opportunity to work closely with Wet Ink on music for large instrumental forces.

Wet Ink's seven co-directors are passionate educators, and the ensemble has been engaged in residencies at the Walden School, Duke University, Amherst College, Northern Illinois University, UC San Diego, Sacramento State University, UC Davis, Hannover Musik Hochschule (Germany), the Royal Academy of Music (UK), Smith College, and at the Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute (Miller Theater, NYC), among others. Wet Ink also regularly performs in Europe, including recent concert highlights at the *Con Voce* festival (Lucerne, Switzerland), the *Sinus Ton* festival (Magdeburg, Germany), and Café OTO (London, UK).

Wet Ink has an extensive discography. The group's recording of Katharina Rosenberger's *Texturen* (2012) was selected by the Preis Der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik and *The Wire* magazine as one of the best releases of 2012. Wet Ink recently released its second solo album, *Relay*, which was recorded during a residency at EMPAC, and will release a debut album for the Wet Ink Large Ensemble in 2017.

## PRESS

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"No group was more bracingly thought-provoking and expansive than the Wet Ink Ensemble. These seven New York musicians/composers are fearless in testing the limitations of what instruments or musical forms can be."

- Edward Ortiz, *The San Francisco Classical Voice*

"[Wet Ink] combined technical finesse with a palpable commitment that made these formidable works approachable."

- *The New York Times*

"New pieces arise out of the Wet Ink Ensemble through close dialogue between composition and interpretation (but also improvisation)... in fact the concerts of the Wet Ink Ensemble are of an extraordinary vitality."

- Thomas Meyer, *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik* (Germany)

"Dense, wild, yet artfully controlled... a headlong performance [of Anthony Braxton's music]."

- Zachary Woolfe, *The New York Times*

"All of the works seemed not only relevant but also important to understanding the nexus between contemporary life and art."

- Karen E. Moorman, *The Online Arts Journal of North Carolina*

"Wet Ink doesn't so much cross boundaries as disregard them."

- *Time Out New York*

"A sort of common ground between Morton Feldman... and Sonic Youth"

"Even at its gnarliest and most confrontational, the overall effect was intoxicating."

- Steve Smith

"Like many classical musicians, they do 'stylistic juxtapositions,' but they don't use them as gimmicks or promotional conceits. Wet Ink's relationships with improv and rock go back as far as the organization itself. And since the organization's inception, the members of Wet Ink have become some of new music's most interesting young composers."

- *Dusted Magazine*

"In [Wet Ink's] programs, the formalized language and notated precision of the avant-garde, the discoveries of psychoacoustics and of minimalism are contaminated with the freedom and improvised strategies of urban music."

- Alberto Bosco, *Il Giornale della Musica* (Italy)

WET INK

[www.wetink.org](http://www.wetink.org)

# PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Wet Ink's touring configurations and programs for the upcoming season.

## FULL WET INK ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS (SEPTET)

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### WET INK COMMISSIONS SERIES

New and recent works for Wet Ink's full septet configuration, commissioned and written in the spirit of Wet Ink's collaborative workshop model. This program consists of 2 interchangeable modules that can be customized according to venue preference –

#### PROGRAM MODULE 1:

Rick Burkhardt: *Alban* (2011)  
Erin Gee: *New Work* (2016)  
Bryn Harrison: *New Work* (2016)  
David Bird: *New Work* (2016)

#### PROGRAM MODULE 2:

Eric Wubbels: *katachi* (2010)  
Kate Soper: *Poetics* from *Ipsa Dixit* (2015)  
Sam Pluta: *ATDV* (2011)  
Alex Mincek: *of Concentric Circles* (2014)

### NYC ELECTROACOUSTIC

A program of cutting-edge works for instruments, voice and electronics, written for the full seven-member Wet Ink Ensemble. Wet Ink has toured this program in Switzerland (Con Voce Festival), Germany (Sinus Ton Festival), Troy, NY (EMPAC), and more.

#### PROGRAM:

Alex Mincek: *of Concentric Circles* (2014)  
Eric Wubbels: *katachi* (2010)  
Kate Soper: *Voices from the Killing Jar* - excerpts (2012)  
Sam Pluta: *Broken Symmetries* (2012)  
Katharina Rosenberger: *TEXTUREN* (2010)

### AMERICAN ADVENTURERS

Innovative works by American composers that blend chamber music with theater and improvisation

#### PROGRAM:

Rick Burkhardt: *Alban* (2011)  
Anthony Braxton: *Quartets*, Op. 131 & 116 (1984-86)  
Kate Soper: *Rhetoric* from *Ipsa Dixit* (2015)  
Sam Pluta: *ATDV* (2011)

### TRANS-ATLANTIC

Drawing connections between works by UK, European, & US composers.

#### PROGRAM:

Peter Ablinger: *Verkündigung* (1997)  
Eric Wubbels: *doxa* (2007)  
Evan Johnson: *L'art de toucher le clavecin, 2* (2009)  
Bryn Harrison: *New Work* (2016)  
Richard Barrett: *Codex*

### WET INK CHAMBER WORKS

Chamber works for smaller configurations, focused on the Wet Ink composers.

#### PROGRAM:

Eric Wubbels: *New Duo*, for Sam Pluta (2016)  
Alex Mincek: *for Petr Kotik* for violin & piano (2013)  
Kate Soper: *Poetics* from *Ipsa Dixit* (2015)  
Sam Pluta: *Broken Symmetries* (2014)  
Erin Gee: *New Work* (2016)

## SUBSET PROGRAMS (DUOS, TRIOS, QUARTETS)



### IPSA DIXIT

An evening-length work of theatrical chamber music that explores the intersections of music, language, and meaning through blistering ensemble virtuosity and extended vocal technique.

#### PROGRAM:

Kate Soper: *Ipsa Dixit* (2015)  
for voice, flute, percussion & violin



### MATHIAS SPAHLINGER: EXTENSION

A program of works for violin and piano centered around Mathias Spahlinger's magnificent "extension", a 50-minute work that explores extreme extended technical virtuosity and deep introspection, at times humorous, dazzling, and unsettling.

#### PROGRAM:

Mathias Spahlinger: *extension* (1979/80)  
Jason Eckardt: *Strömkarl* (2012)  
Alex Mincek: *for Petr Kotik* (2013)



### HYDRA/CHILDREN OF FIRE

Electro-acoustic and amplified works for violin, piano & live electronics that employ a vast range of expressive tools, from text recitation and theater (Burkhardt), to Just Intonation, virtuosic extended repetition, and noise (Wubbels), and acousmatic, live processed, and aleatoric music (Pluta).

#### PROGRAM:

Eric Wubbels: *"the children of fire come looking for fire"* (2012)  
Rick Burkhardt: *TED* (2013)  
Sam Pluta: *hydra* (2015)



### DIFFERENCE/REPETITION

Works for trio: saxophone, flute & piano. Focused on major works for the instrumentation by Bernhard Lang and Peter Ablinger.

Peter Ablinger: *Verkündigung* (1997)  
Eric Wubbels: *Shiverer* (2007)  
Bernhard Lang: *Differenz/Wiederholung 1.2* (2002)

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

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### 2015

Sep 11 <sup>th</sup>	Roulette, NYC	Performance on the Resonant Bodies Festival
Sep 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sarasota, FL	Kate Soper's <i>Ipsa Dixit</i> @ New Music New College
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Performa 15 – Times Square, NYC	Schönberg's <i>Erwartung</i> performance
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Smith College Residency, MA	Part 1 of residency – to include workshops & concerts
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	St. Peter's Church Chelsea	Winter Chamber Concert – Lewis, Zubeil, Garnero, Lerdahl

### 2016

Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Spectrum, NYC	(con)temporary (in)sights series – works for violin & viola
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	National Sawdust, Brooklyn	Anthony Braxton Portrait Concert
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Oberlin College, OH	"Hydra/Children of Fire" trio performance
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Constellation, Chicago, IL	"Hydra/Children of Fire" trio performance
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Amherst College, MA	Residency concert: duos by Wet Ink Composers
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago, IL	MusicNow: (sub)text – Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	St. Anselm College, NH	Kate Soper's <i>Ipsa Dixit</i>
Apr 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Peter's Church Chelsea	Large Ensemble performs works by Columbia Composers
May 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Smith College	Part 2 of residency – concert of student works
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Darmstadt Celebration, Roulette, NYC	Mathias Spahlinger: "extension", for violin & piano
Jun 10 <sup>th</sup>	St. Peter's Church Chelsea	Large Ensemble Concert
Jun 11 <sup>th</sup>	St. Peter's Church Chelsea	First Annual Large Ensemble Readings Project

## RECENT SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

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### 2015

Jun 14 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dublin, NH	Ensemble-in-residence, Walden Creative Musicians Retreat
Jun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Roulette, NYC	Large Ensemble concert, with soloists Ryan Muncy & Mariel Roberts
Spring 2015	Northampton, MA	Ensemble-in-residence, Smith College
May 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	CALIFORNIA TOUR	Performances at ArtShare (LA), CCRMA (Stanford) & CNMAT (Berkeley)
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	SubCulture, NYC	Guest performance at New Music USA Benefit
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Music Mondays, NYC	Works by Kate Soper @ Music Mondays concert series
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	DiMenna Center, NYC	Large Ensemble performs works by Columbia Composers
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago, IL	"There Is No Repetition" – Mathias Spahlinger @ 70 ("extension")
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	ENGLAND TOUR	Birmingham, Manchester, London (Café OTO)
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Garden, NYC	Collaboration with MANTRA Percussion & Ecstatic Music Fest.

### 2014

Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pioneer Works, NYC	s_traits – collaboration with John Supko
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	GERMANY TOUR	Sinus Ton Festival (Magdeburg), Hannover, Berlin
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Dublin, NH	Ensemble-in-residence, Walden Creative Musicians Retreat
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St. Peters Church, NYC	Large Ensemble concert, featuring young British composers
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Troy, NY	Concert at EMPAC
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lucerne, Switzerland	2 concerts at the Con Voce Festival

### 2013

Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Harvard University	Premiere of Rick Burkhardt's <i>TED</i>
Sep 30 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	COLLABORATIONS SERIES	Wet Ink's mini-festival, w/ Evan Parker, Mivos, Yarn Wire
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Duke University, Durham, NC	Final concert of Wet Ink's 2-year Duke residency

# SELECTED REPERTOIRE

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## FULL SEPTET

Alex Mincek	<i>Color, Form, Line</i> <i>Of Concentric Circles</i>
Katharina Rosenberger	<i>TEXTUREN</i>
Sam Pluta	<i>ATD V</i> <i>Broken Symmetries</i>
Kate Soper	<i>Voices from the Killing Jar</i> <i>The Understanding of All Things</i>
Rick Burkhardt	<i>Alban</i>
George E. Lewis	<i>Anthem</i>
Eric Wubbels	<i>katachi</i>
Erin Gee	<i>New Work (2016)</i>
Bryn Harrison	<i>New Work (2016)</i>

## SMALLER FORMATIONS

### Trios

Bernhard Lang	<i>DW 1.2</i> (flute, saxophone, piano)
Peter Ablinger	<i>Verkündigung</i> (flute, saxophone, piano)
Sam Pluta	<i>hydra</i> (violin, piano, live electronics)

### Duos

Alex Mincek	<i>Nucleus</i> (saxophone, drums) <i>For Petr Kotik</i> (violin, piano)
Eric Wubbels	<i>Shiverer</i> (flute, piano) <i>The Children of Fire Come Looking for Fire...</i> (violin, piano) <i>doxa</i> (vibraphone, piano) <i>this is, this is, this is...</i> (saxophone, piano)
Kate Soper	<i>Only the Words Themselves Mean What They Say</i> (flute, voice) <i>The Crito</i> (percussion, voice) <i>Cipher</i> (violin, voice)
Sam Pluta	<i>Jim Altieri with a Ring Modulator Circuit</i> (violin, electronics) <i>ATD II (incognito)</i> (solo instrument, laptop)
Amy Williams	<i>First Lines</i> (flute, piano)
Beat Furrer	<i>FAMA</i> (contrabass flute, voice)
Mathias Spahlinger	<i>extension</i> (violin, piano)
Jason Eckardt	<i>Strömkarl</i> (violin, piano)
Rick Burkhardt	<i>TED</i> (violin, piano)

### Solos

Peter Ablinger	<i>Voices and Piano</i> (piano, tape)
Morton Feldman	<i>palais de mari</i> (piano) <i>for Aaron Copland</i> (violin)
Brian Ferneyhough	<i>Unsichtbare Farben</i> (violin)
Matthew Hough	<i>ffffffffffffff</i> (violin, electronics)
Alvin Lucier	<i>Silver Streetcar for Orchestra</i> (percussion)
Alex Mincek	<i>V</i> (marimba)

## SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

### **Relay**

Label: Carrier Records

Release date: December 2012

Wet Ink's second full-length album, featuring works by Wet Ink composers, George Lewis, and Rick Burkhardt

### **Sam Pluta: *Machine Language***

Label: Carrier Records

Release date: October 2012

Featuring Wet Ink, Mivos Quartet, Timetable Percussion, & Jessie Marino

### **Katharina Rosenberger: *Texturen***

Label: hat[now]ART

Release date: September 2012

Rosenberger's debut full-length album, featuring Wet Ink. Winner of a 2012 *Preis Der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik*, and *The Wire* Best of 2012.

### **Alex Mincek**

Label: Carrier Records

Release date: November 2011

Featuring Wet Ink, JACK Quartet, Michael Ibrahim & Eric Poland

### **George Lewis: *Les Exercices Spirituels***

Label: Tzadik

Release date: May 2011

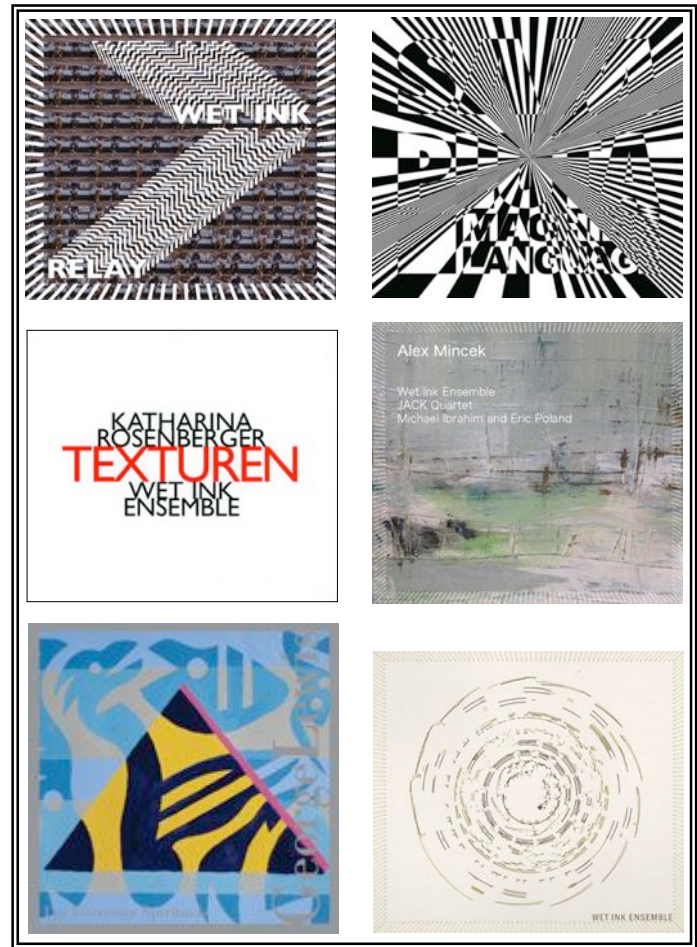
George Lewis' chamber works, featuring Wet Ink.

### **Wet Ink Ensemble**

Label: Carrier Records

Release date: January 2009

Featuring works by Alex Mincek, Eric Wubbels, Sam Pluta, Jeff Snyder, and Kate Soper



### **Kate Soper: *Voices from the Killing Jar***

Label: Carrier Records

Release date: December 2013

Soper's album-length operetta written for the Wet Ink Septet.

### **Upcoming:**

### **Wet Ink Large Ensemble Debut**

Label: Carrier Records

Release details pending

The first full-length album featuring the Wet Ink Large Ensemble, a collection of NYC's most ferocious new music interpreters.



## MEMBER BIOS

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**Wet Ink:** Alex Mincek (saxophone/composition), Erin Lesser (flute), Ian Antonio (percussion), Josh Modney (violin), Kate Soper (voice/composition), Eric Wubbels (piano/composition), Sam Pluta (electronics/composition)

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Flutist ERIN LESSER has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout world and her performances have been lauded as “superb” (New York Times) and “brilliant” (New York Concert Review). She is a member of Alarm Will Sound, Argento Chamber Ensemble, Due East, Scarborough Trio, and the Wet Ink Ensemble. Festival appearances include: Shanghai Electroacoustic Music Festival, Kilkenny Music Festival, Warsaw Crossdrumming Festival, Holland Festival, Ojai Music Festival, Istanbul International Spectral Music Festival, and Aldeburgh Festival. Lesser was a fellow of The Academy, a program run by Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School and the Weill Music Institute. She is an Assistant Professor of Flute at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. Lesser is a Pearl Flute Performing Artist.

ALEX MINCEK (saxophone) is a New York-based composer and performer. His work as a composer and performer has been featured at venues and international festivals including Carnegie Hall, Miller Theatre, the Strasbourg Musica Festival, Festival Présences of Radio France, Festival Archipel in Geneva, Abbaye de Royaumont in Paris, Festival des Musiques Démesurées in Clermont-Ferrand, Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Unerhörte Musik in Berlin, Contempuls Festival in Prague, and the Ostrava New Music Days. Mincek has collaborated with ensembles such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Janacek Philharmonic, Ensemble Linea, Ensemble XXI, Ensemble Cairn, Le Balcon, SEM, Present Music, Talea, Dal Niente, Yarn/Wire, Mivos and the JACK Quartet. Mincek’s music has also been recognized through commissions and awards from institutions such as the Guggenheim Foundation, the French Ministry of Culture, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, ASCAP, the National Endowment for the Arts, MATA, the Barlow Endowment, and Meet The Composer.

ERIC WUBBELS is a New York-based composer and pianist. Wubbels's music has been presented at concerts and festivals in Europe, Asia and the U.S., including the MATA Festival (NYC), Contempuls Festival (Prague), Tage fur Neue Musik (Zurich), and the June in Buffalo Performance Institute. Ensembles that have performed and commissioned his work include Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin, I.C.E., Yarn/Wire, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble (San Francisco), mmm... (Japan), Talea Ensemble, and JACK Quartet, and he has been awarded residencies at the MacDowell Colony and Civitella Ranieri Center (Italy). As a performer, he has given U.S. and world premieres of works by major figures such as Peter Ablinger, Richard Barrett, George Lewis, Michael Finnissy, Beat Furrer, Bernhard Lang, and Mathias Spahlinger.

KATE SOPER (voice) is a New York-based composer, performer, and writer whose compositional interests include the integration of drama and rhetoric into musical structure, the slippery continuums of expressivity, intelligibility and sense, and the wonderfully treacherous landscape of the human voice. She has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Koussevitsky Music Foundation, the Fromm Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Chamber Music America, and the Music Theory Society of New York State, and has been commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra, the Tanglewood Music Center/Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Alarm Will Sound, Yarn/Wire, and the Knights, among others. As a singer with experience in Western Classical and Indian Carnatic music, pop music, and improvisation, she performs frequently as a new music soprano in her own works and the works of others. She is a Professor of Music at Smith College.

JOSH MODNEY is a NYC-based violinist dedicated to performing contemporary music, collaborating closely with composers on new work over extended time periods, and exploring innovative interpretations of classical music. Josh is violinist and Executive Director of the Wet Ink Ensemble and a founding member of Mivos Quartet. Hailed as “superb” and “flamboyant”, “a new-music luminary” (New York Times), Josh has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at festivals and concert series across four continents, and was a featured solo performer at the 2013 Zürich Tage für Neue Musik. He has presented hundreds of premieres, and worked closely with major figures including Mathias Spahlinger, Helmut Lachenmann, George Lewis, Christian Wolff, and Peter Ablinger. Collaboration has long been a focus of Josh’s practice, and he has developed new large-scale work with composers including Kate Soper, Alex Mincek, Eric Wubbels, Sam Pluta, and Rick Burkhardt, among others. Josh has recorded for Carrier Records, Deutsche Grammophon, hat[now]ART, and Tzadik Records.

IAN ANTONIO is a percussionist. His breadth of experience - concertizing across 4 continents with a wide variety of chamber ensembles, orchestras, experimental rock bands, avant-garde theater companies, and as a soloist, conductor, and educator - has led him to develop a unique sound and approach to both performing and teaching. In addition to his work with Wet Ink, Ian is a member of the piano and percussion ensemble Yarn/Wire, the percussion group Talujon, and from 2003-2012 was a member of the difficult-to-categorize trio Zs. Ian's playing can be heard on the Carrier, Nonesuch, Warp, Social Registry, and Kairos record labels, among others. Ian holds doctoral and master's degrees from Stony Brook University and a bachelor's degree from the Manhattan School of Music.

SAM PLUTA is a New York City-based composer, improviser, and sound artist. Known internationally for his laptop performances with groups like Rocket Science, Wet Ink Ensemble, and The Peter Evans Quintet, he has performed as a laptop soloist and chamber musician at the Lucerne Festival, the Donaueschingen Festival, the Moers Festival, Bimhaus, Porgy and Bess, and the Vortex, amongst other international concert venues and festivals. He was recently ranked as the top electronics performer in the El Intruso international poll of jazz critics. As a composer, he has been commissioned and premiered by Mivos Quartet, Yarn/Wire, ICE, Timetable Percussion, RIOT Trio, Dave Eggar, and Prism Saxophone Quartet. He is Technical Director for Wet Ink Ensemble, a new music group dedicated to promoting music by young composers. A devoted pedagogue, he teaches electronic music, history, and theory at Manhattan School of Music, has taught at the Computer Music Center at Columbia University, and is Academic Dean and Director of Electronic Music at the Walden School, a summer music program for creative musicians. Sam's music is released on quiet design and Carrier Records, a record label he runs with Jeff Snyder and David Franzson, and his performances can also be found on More Is More, Tzadik, Pi Recordings, and hat[now]ART. Sam holds a Doctorate in Music Composition from Columbia University and additional degrees from UT Austin, the University of Birmingham (UK), and Santa Clara University.

# CONTACT

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