



“Outside the Box” curator Lisa Bielawa.
Photo by Liz Linder. Available in high-resolution from
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Outside the Box An Election Night Concert of Free Improvisation

Tuesday, November 4, 2008
6 pm - midnight

Curated by Lisa Bielawa in New York &
Carla Kihlstedt in the Bay Area

Featuring performances by 19 artists including
John Zorn & Joan La Barbara

Simultaneous concert to be performed in
Oakland, CA and broadcast via live video feed

Presented by Judson Memorial Church
55 Washington Square South, NYC

Admission: \$10 at the door (entire evening, re-admission free)
Information: 212.477.0351 or www.judson.org

October 20, 2008—New York, NY— From 6 pm to midnight on election night, Tuesday, November 4, 2008, “Outside the Box: An Election Night Concert of Free Improvisation,” curated by composer-vocalist **Lisa Bielawa** and presented by **Judson Memorial Church** (55 Washington Square South), will feature performances by 19 world-renowned musicians specializing in improvisation in various styles, plus artists working in other forms – visual art and poetry – known for their collaboration with musicians. In the Bay Area, violinist-vocalist **Carla Kihlstedt** will curate and perform in a similar concert at The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA), which will be viewable in New York (and vice versa) on site via live video feed from 9 pm to midnight, Eastern.

On this night of extremes in emotions and viewpoints, “Outside the Box” will be an opportunity for New York City and the Bay Area to come together as communities. Election updates will be given by the artists throughout the evening, and will also be available on television in an adjacent room. Audience members can come and go throughout, for a one-time low admission fee of \$10. Food and drink will also be available for purchase.

Artists to perform during “Outside the Box” in New York include **John Zorn**, composer, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist; **Joan La Barbara**, composer, performer, and soundartist; **Lisa Bielawa**, composer and vocalist; **Kevorik Mourad**, improvisational painter; **Steve Ben Israel**, poet; **Zeena Parkins**, electric harp; **Colin Jacobsen**, violinist; **Charles Waters**, clarinetist, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist; **Kinan Azmeh**, clarinetist; **Gordon Beeferman**, composer and pianist; **Shahzad Ismaily**, percussionist; **Russ Johnson**, trumpet; **Mick Rossi**, pianist, composer, and percussionist; **Kyle Sanna**, guitarist; **Jim Black**, percussionist; **Ches Smith**, drummer; **Miguel Frasconi**, glass instrumentalist and electronics; **Paul Knopf**, pianist; and **Hilmar Jensson**, guitarist.

Each artist will perform for approximately one hour, overlapping and collaborating at the beginning and end of their performances with those before and after them. Skilled at responding to the moment, these artists will react to the election results and the drama of the evening as it progresses, taking the audience with them on an emotional journey on this night of transformation.

See end of press release for the “Outside the Box” schedule.

About Judson Memorial Church:

From its start, Judson Memorial Church has associated itself with artists in many media. It has tried to be alert to what artists perceive and say, not only when the art portrays beauty but also when it portrays ugliness, sometimes to protest. Judson Church has long maintained an anti-censorship stance that welcomes art, whether tough or refined, as one voice of "secular prophets." Particularly during the pastorates of Bob Spike (1949-55) and Howard Moody (1956-92), Judson Church became known as a venue for avant-garde arts and a foe of art censorship. These activities continue today, as Judson makes its facilities available to a wide variety of artists in dance, theatre, music, and visual arts of diverse styles.

About Lisa Bielawa, New York curator:

Composer–vocalist Lisa Bielawa takes inspiration for her work from literary sources and close artistic collaborations, employing instrumental forces in ways that are both dramatic and intimate in their use of time and space. *The New York Times* describes her music as, “ruminative, pointillistic and harmonically slightly tart.” Recent performances include the 2008 premiere of *Double Violin Concerto*, written for violinist Colin Jacobsen and violinist-vocalist Carla Kihlstedt with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, with which she is Composer-in-Residence; the 2007 premiere of *Chance Encounter*, written for migrating ensemble and soprano Susan Narucki for performance in public places, in Lower Manhattan; and the 2006 premiere of *The Lay of the Love and Death* at Alice Tully Hall. In 2007, the first commercial recordings of Ms. Bielawa’s music were released on Tzadik (*A Handful of World*; Tzadik 8039) and Albany Records (*First Takes*; TROY941). *The Lay of the Love and Death* will be the inaugural disc of Premiere Commission Recordings in spring 2009. Ms. Bielawa is a graduate of Yale with a BA *summa cum laude* in Literature. She began composing early in life – her father is a composer, and her mother an early music scholar – and she grew up singing and playing the violin and piano. An enthusiastic advocate for the field, Ms. Bielawa was a founding Artistic Director of the MATA Festival from 1997 until 2007, and now serves on its board. As a vocalist, she has premiered and recorded countless works by her composer colleagues. In 2007-2008, Lisa Bielawa was a Radcliffe Institute Fellow.

About Carla Kihlstedt, Bay Area curator:

A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Carla Kihlstedt has continuously pushed the boundaries of sonic vocabulary on both the acoustic and the electric violin. A violinist, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist, she is a founding member of Tin Hat Trio (now renamed Tin Hat), Sleepytime Gorilla Museum and The Book of Knots. Other musical projects include 2 Foot Yard, Charming Hostess and Carla Kihlstedt & Satoko Fujii. She has also worked occasionally on projects with Tom Waits, and recorded numerous albums as a guest or session musician.

Schedule for “Outside the Box” in New York (subject to change without notice):**6 pm – 8 pm:**

John Zorn – composer, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist
Zeena Parkins – electric harpist
Gordon Beeferman – composer and pianist
Steve Ben Israel – poet
Shahzad Ismaily – percussionist
Ches Smith – drummer

8 pm – 10 pm:

Miguel Frasconi – glass instrumentalist and electronics
Joan La Barbara – composer, performer, and soundartist
Colin Jacobsen – violinist
Kinan Azmeh – clarinetist
Kevork Mourad – improvisational painter
Kyle Sanna – guitarist
Paul Knopf – pianist

10 pm – midnight:

Lisa Bielawa – vocalist
Charles Waters – clarinetist, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist
Mick Rossi – pianist, composer, and percussionist
Russ Johnson – trumpet

Jim Black – percussionist
Hilmar Jensson – guitarist

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