



SERIAL UNDERGROUND

"The subversive nightclub series"
(Time Out NY, Steve Smith)

Can you come twice in a row,
on the 2nd Monday of the month
at the Cornelia Street Café

The only show in New York
where you can get in for free
(for a small commitment.)



PRESS RELEASE SEPT '09- JULY '10

For immediate release: Oct 1st, 2009

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For immediate release:

1 October 2009

SERIAL UNDERGROUND EVENT INFORMATION

Serial introduces multidisciplinary collaborations, and very recently composed music – the second Monday of the month at the legendary Cornelia Street Café, NYC – residencies by Demetrius Spaneas (April), Rachele Garniez (Jan, May), Giancarlo Vulcano (May, June), Momenta String Quartet (Oct, Nov, Feb), Neil Rolnick (Nov, Jan, Feb), Stephanie&Saar DUO (Oct, Nov), CYGNUS (Feb, Mar, Jun), Ed Schmidt (Mar, Apr, May), Deborah Atherton (Oct, May), CCI artistic director Jed Distler (plays short interludes throughout the season). Doors open at 8:30 pm. A series of stellar one-offs by the piano duo Quattro Mani (Mar), Jenny Lin (Dec), Word Beat (Dec), Joshua Fried (Dec.) AND the Yamaha upright has been upgraded to a grand piano.

Here's the deal, show up this season for 2 consecutive ComposersCollaborative (CCI) Serial Underground shows and you get in for free for any of the other shows through June 2010.

Next: 12 October 2009 at 8:30 pm

Where: Cornelia Street Cafe (29 Cornelia Street, NYC)

When: The second Monday of every month at 8:30 pm

How: By subway – 1, 9 train to Sheridan Square or A, C, E, F, V train to West 4th Street

Box office: 212.663.1967

Admission: \$15 gen'l, \$10 student/sr – Music charge + food or one drink minimum

SERIAL UNDERGROUND CALENDAR

October 12

Stephanie & Saar DUO
Stephanie Griffin viola & John Gurrin media artist
Deborah Atherton writer of stories

November 9

Stephanie & Saar DUO
Momenta Quartet
Neil Rolnick

December 14

Word-Beat, percussion & voice
Jenny Lin, piano

January 11

Neil Rolnick
Spin 17
Rachele Garniez

February 8

Neil Rolnick
Momenta Quartet
Cygnus

March 8

Ed Schmidt
Quattro Mani
Cygnus

April 12

Demetrius Spaneas
Ed Schmidt

May 10

Rachele Garniez
Giancarlo Vulcano
Deborah Atherton
Ed Schmidt

SERIAL UNDERGROUND LOCATION

Serial Underground, “the subversive nightclub series” (Time Out NY) presents multidisciplinary collaborations between composers, playwrights, directors, filmmakers and artists of every stripe. Allan Kozinn (New York Times) contextualizes CCI’s monthly performances in the basement of the Cornelia Street Cafe – “... part of the ecology of urban night life.” CCI artistic director, Jed Distler, curates the programs abetted by director Arnold Barkus and lighting designer David Lovett.

The Cornelia Street Café has presented an enormous variety of artists, from singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega to poet-senator Eugene McCarthy, from members of Monty Python to members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. And there is a real kitchen, which garners much acclaim such as the 1998 Village Arts Award for “inspired cuisine.”

SERIAL UNDERGROUND ARTISTS IN THE 2009/2010 SEASON



STEPHANIE GRIFFIN

Praised by the New York Times for her “fiery, full-throated performance,” Canadian violist Stephanie Griffin performs regularly as a soloist and with a wide range of ensembles, including the Argento Chamber Ensemble, Continuum, the Momenta Quartet, the conductorless String Orchestra of New York City (SONYC) and the avant-jazz band Floriculture. For the past ten years, she has made annual visits to Indonesia to collaborate with the composer Tony Prabowo.

DEBORAH ATHERTON

Deborah is a writer, lyricist, and librettist living in NYC. Her opera, *Mary Shelley*, written with composer Allan Jaffe, was commissioned by Parabola Arts and presented at the Center for Ethical Culture. Her first opera, *Under the Double Moon*, written with Anthony Davis, was commissioned and produced by Opera Theater of St. Louis. Her short stories have appeared in a variety of literary magazines: *Harmolodic*, *Siam Records*, *Aksara* and *Firehouse 12*.



JED DISTLER

"An altogether extraordinary pianist" - M. Redmond, Newark Star-Ledger

Jed Distler is Artistic Director of Composers Collaborative, for whom he has created such innovative series as Solo Flights, Non Sequitur, and Serial Underground. He has given two-piano performances with artists as diverse as Dick Hyman and Frederic Rzewski, composed a large body of vocal, chamber and solo piano works broadcast and performed worldwide, and helped expose 2007's notorious Joyce Hatto scandal. Distler's work can be found on the Nonesuch, Decca, Point, CRI, ASV, Bridge and Laserlight labels.



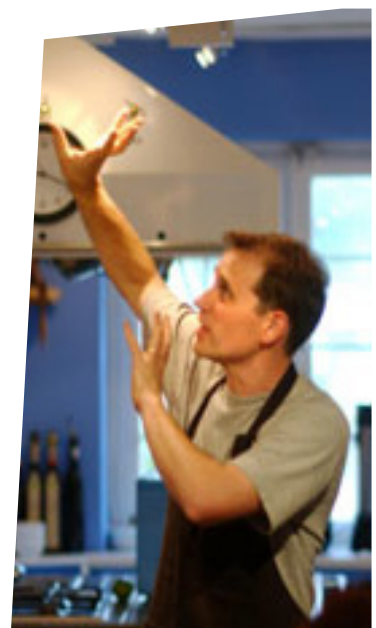
GIANCARLO VULCANO

Giancarlo Vulcano grew up in midtown Manhattan, and continues to live and work in New York City. After playing guitar in rock bands he went to Sarah Lawrence College and studied composition with George Tsontakis. A year abroad in Florence was devoted to the study of strict counterpoint and harmony at the conservatory, and also to an independent study of late Stravinsky scores, a passion that continues today. He returned to New York for graduate school, studying with Thea Musgrave at Queens College, CUNY. Giancarlo's debut CD *Vetro* was named by Newsweek as a Top Album for Summer 2008, and his work has been hailed by Time Out New York: "*Vetro evokes a gentle world rendered in primary colors.*" He currently works with composer Jeff Richmond on the music for the comedy *30 Rock* on NBC. He contributes arrangements, incidental music, and plays all the guitar-family instruments heard on the show (ukelele, banjo, lapsteel).

ED SCHMIDT

Ed Schmidt's (Playwright, Performer, Producer, Genius) plays have been rejected by some of the most and least venerable theater companies in America, including Arena Stage ("not right"), Manhattan Theater Club ("really don't think it's right"), Lincoln Center Theater ("don't feel the play is right"), Roundabout Theatre Company ("don't think the piece is quite right"), South Coast Rep ("haven't found a slot for it here"), Paper Mill Playhouse ("not the type of show that we are looking to produce"), Old Globe ("not the kind of work I respond to"), Playwrights Horizons ("too schematically drawn for our tastes"), Manhattan Class Company ("not interested in working with you"), Cleveland Play House ("unable to persuade the powers-that-be to choose it"), Zebra Crossing Theatre ("generally do not depict this type of behavior on stage"), New Playwrights' Theatre ("seeking liquidation under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code"), Immediate Theatre ("out of business"), and the North Carolina Black Repertory Company ("please refrain from calling the office about your scripts").

Visit <http://www.edschmidt.info/>



DUO STEPHANIE & SAAR

"The duo gave beautifully understated performances."
Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*, July 21, 2009

DUO Stephanie & Saar (Stephanie Ho and Saar Ahuvia) recently appeared with the Czech Republic's Pilsen Radio Symphony Orchestra in Martinu's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, and are fixtures on Baltimore's cutting-edge An die Musik LIVE! Series. They performed Mozart's Two Piano Concerto with Regensdorf Chamber Orchestra (Switzerland), while a Banff Centre residency resulted in a four-hand CD. Their repertoire encompasses everything from Beethoven Quartet transcriptions to new works written for them by Hywel Davies, Philippe Bodin and other composers. They've been awarded a New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Individual Artist Grant through the Queens Council for the Arts Community Arts Fund, and are faculty members at Concordia College's Conservatory of Music in Bronxville, New York. Visit <http://www.stepsaarduo.com>



RACHELLE GARNIEZ

New York native Rachel is currently collaborating with performance artist Taylor Mac, composing music for his piece *"The Lily's Revenge"*, and writing songs for the Franklin Stage Company's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's *"American Fairy Tales"*. Other notable collaborators include Thomas Dolby, Sxip Shirey, Claywoman, the Marvin Sewell Group, Rufus Wainwright, Hazmat Modine and Jenny Scheinman. Hailed by the *New York Press* as *"one of the greatest songwriters of our time"*, described by the *New Yorker* as *"a certified free spirit with a rich voice and a wild imagination,"* Garniez has released four CDs, serves as co-musical director of renowned musical theater troupe The Citizens Band, and, since 1997, has lead her own band The Fortunate Few.

Visit <http://www.rachellegarniez.com>

CYGNUS ENSEMBLE

With its pairs of plucked strings, bowed strings and woodwinds, the Cygnus Ensemble has a precedent in the Elizabethan *"broken consort"*. They've toured Holland, Denmark, Poland, and Mexico. They premiered Jonathan Dawe's chamber opera *"Prometheus"* for the Guggenheim's Works & Process, and recorded Matthew Greenbaum's *"Nameless"* with Momenta String Quartet (also in residence on Serial Underground during the 09/10 season). Dedicated to helping the next generation of composers, Cygnus is in residence at Sarah Lawrence College, and at the CUNY Graduate Center. Their work is featured on the CRI and Bridge labels.

Visit <http://www.cygnusensemble.com/>



NEIL RODNICK

"Balkanization, based on Bulgarian and Yugoslav folk themes... brought to mind the folk-theme fantasies composed in the 19th century. Mr. Rolnick's fantasy is technologically and idiomatically updated, but the sense of spirited and inventive variation is very much in that time-honored tradition." – Allan Kozinn, *New York Times* (June 4, 1988)

Since he moved to New York City in 2002, Neil Rolnick's music has been receiving increasingly wide recognition and numerous performances both in the US and abroad. A pioneer in the use of computers in performance, beginning in the late 1970s, Rolnick has often included unexpected and unusual combinations of materials and media in his music. He has performed around the world, and his music has appeared on 14 CD's.

Though much of Rolnick's work has been in areas which connect music and technology, and is therefore considered in the realm of "experimental" music, his music has always been highly melodic and accessible. Whether working with electronic sounds, improvisation, or multimedia, his music has been characterized by critics as "sophisticated," "hummable and engaging," and as having "good senses of showmanship and humor."

DEMETRIUS SPANEAS

Demetrius Spaneas leads a varied international career. He has commissioned, recorded and premiered works by many major composers, including John Cage, John Harbison, Donald Martino, Bernard Rands, Gunther Schuller, Joan Tower, and many others. He currently has two solo recordings on Capstone Records, *When Wind Comes to Sparse Bamboo* (2003) and *From a Far-off World* (2006). Current recording projects include: *Sfumato*, a collection of improvisations with vocalist Galina Parfenova, and *The Legacy of Xenakis*, a collection of new music by Greek composers.

Visit www.dspaneas.com



QUATTRO MANI

"The duo piano team Quattro Mani is one of the very finest I have heard. Susan Grace and Alice Rybak are wonderful artists and their performances are both technically and musically superb." – George Crumb

Quattro Mani, formed in 1989, has gained international recognition with performances in Spain, Korea and many cities in the United States. Their special interest in twentieth century repertoire has led to collaborations with such composers as George Crumb, Joan Tower, Jed Distler and Frederic Rzewski and to participation in contemporary music festivals throughout the USA and Europe. Their recording of George Crumb's *Two Piano Music* for the Bridge label won the Cannes Classical Awards "Best Chamber Music CD of the Year" award.



WORD BEAT

Word-Beat is a critically acclaimed collaboration of spoken word and original music, with percussion artist Tom Teasley and singer/actor Charles Williams. They combine history's greatest words about justice, peace, and life with music inspired by the writer's culture of origin. Poetry and prose from Harlem, the Civil Rights Movement, ancient Africa, India, and the Middle East converge with the energy of jazz, folk, and modern music. Word-Beat's first recording, Poetry, Prose, Percussion and Song was hailed as one of the most important of its kind at the 2007 International Association for Jazz Education conference.

IAJE singled out Word-Beat as a leading collaboration in the integration of poetry and music, calling Word-Beat's recordings "must-haves." The duo's second CD, The Soul Dances, was nominated for the Washington Area Music Association's Best World Music Release award. Visit <http://www.word-beat.com/>

JOSHUA FRIED

Joshua Fried emerged from New York's downtown experimental music and East Village performance art scenes of the 1980s. His full-length HEADPHONE FOLLIES completed its 12-week run at HERE Arts Center in 2001 with a rotating cast of sixty-four headphone-driven performers. His innovative Radio Wonderland imaginatively processes live radio through computer programs triggered by old shoes and a steering wheel.

Visit radiowonderland.org.



P.S. If you are so inclined, at the end of every performance you can let us know how you liked the show. Give us an earful if necessary. You are part of our community and we care about what you have to say.

**Contact Célia Cooke (212-663-1967) for program updates and press information.
<http://www.composerscollab.org>**