

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Alanna Stone  
[alannamaharajh@yahoo.com](mailto:alannamaharajh@yahoo.com)  
917-359-4449

Peppergreen Media & Spectrum NYC present

**International Strange Music Day 2014 Performance Soiree**  
**Sunday, August 24th @ SPECTRUM NYC, 121 Ludlow St., NYC**  
**Tickets \$15 - Doors open at 6:30 pm with trouble to begin at 7:00 pm**



**AUGUST 24th** is **International sTRANGE mUSIC Day**. It's a real holiday, yes it is. To celebrate, some of the NYC area's best and brightest composers and performers are getting together to have a very unserious session of music making. This as an opportunity to for them to share unusual sounds, unusual instrumentation, and unusual compositions rarely heard or new ones that will never be heard from again.

**For the 2014 celebration**, creator **Patrick Grant/Peppergreen Media** partners up once again with NYC's Lower East Side high-tech chamber-salon **Spectrum NYC** where the 2012 event was held. This is the perfect venue for such an event since its capabilities will enable strange musicians and performers of all stripes to push the envelope into uncharted territory.

**Celebration in São Paulo:** Making this a truly international event, there will be a Strange Music Day sister spectacle taking place at exactly the same time at the Paco Das Artes in São Paulo, Brazil presented by the **Orchestra Descarrego**.

**NEWSFLASH:** All attendees of the INTERNATIONAL STRANGE MUSIC DAY performance at Spectrum NYC on Aug. 24th are eligible to enter our FREE raffle. The Grand Prize? A single ticket to the **KING CRIMSON** concert on Sept. 21st in NYC, Orchestra Center, Row GG, Seat 101. Why only one ticket? Out of sympathy for the poor date that always gets dragged along. We're showing some mercy.

**Web page:** <http://www.peppergreenmedia.com/ISMD2014.html>

## **A SPLENDID ORCHESTRA**

is in town, but has not been engaged

## **MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS**

were in contemplation for this occasion, but the idea has been abandoned

## **A GRAND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

may be expected; in fact, the public are privileged to expect whatever they please.

## **NYC PERFORMERS TO INCLUDE...**

Guitarists **Angela Babin** and **Cristian Amigo** perform *Empty Form Duo #5*, a piece based on the non-dualistic idea of form/emptiness. Babin was a founding mother of the band *The Ordinaires* who received critical acclaim in the 80s in the Downtown NY music scene. She met Amigo (Guggenheim Fellow, guitarist, and songwriter) while playing Elliott Sharp's *Syndakit*. During an extended wait for the subway they formed their collaboration for the *Gotham Roots Orchestra* via a mutual appreciation for the blues. They will keep it sTRANGE.

Violinist/composer **Lynn Bechtold** has appeared in recital throughout NA and Europe, and has premiered works by composers including Gloria Coates, George Crumb, John Harbison, Alvin Lucier, and Morton Subotnick. She is a member of groups including *Zentripetal Duo*, *Bleecker StQ*, *Miolina*, and *SEM*, and her performances have been broadcast on various TV/radio, including WNYC, *30 Rock*, *CBS Morning Show*, and *Good Day NY*. She has appeared at venues from Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall to LPR and Joe's Pub. Her electroacoustic compositions have been performed on festivals such as the *Composers Concordance Festival* and Kathleen Supove's *Music With A View*.

**Jason Belcher** is a composer & multi-instrumentalist who studied at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He led several performance projects as a student, including a revival of music by Burr Van Nostrand, a composer whose most adventurous scores went unheard for 42 years. As a result of this project, a disc of Burr's work was released by New World Records in 2013. Belcher currently lives and works in New York, where he is active in projects with other young improvisers.

*Chime's Swing Number 89*, inspired by a set of chimes given to **Tom Burnett** in 1989 by the late performer and artist **Winchester Chimes**, is part of a continuing series of performances dating back to 1989. This performance is coincidentally the eight-ninth. Other venues have included the Bardavon Theatre, Joe's Pub, the Kitchen, the occasional rock quarry, church, and the Canal Street subway station.

**Ken Butler** is an artist and musician whose Hybrid musical instruments, performances, and installations explore the interaction and transformation of common and uncommon objects, altered images, sounds and silence. He has performed and exhibited throughout the USA, Canada, and Europe including The Stedelijk Museum, The Prada Foundation in Venice, Mass MoCA, The Kitchen, The Brooklyn Museum, The Queens Museum, Lincoln Center, and The Metropolitan Museum as well as in South America and Asia. Butler has been reviewed in The NY Times, The Village Voice, Artforum, Smithsonian, and Sculpture Magazine and has been featured on PBS, CNN, MTV, and NBC's *The Tonight Show*.

**Constance Cooper** improvises instrumentally and vocally, in concert —today, *Solo With Stadium Blanket* — and for theater, using two keyboards tuned a quartertone apart. She belongs to ArtStar, which includes live painting and audience drawing, and to the women's a cappella acoustic trio Arc Welding. Some years ago she designed an improvisation work for the cellist Ernst Reijseger, who began the performance, then stood up,

walked around while playing, and then deliberately got entangled with the branches of a large potted plant. He later said that he had always wanted to be a tree.

**Glenn Cornett** runs Spectrum NYC, the performance venue/gallery on Manhattan's Lower East Side that supports innovation and virtuosity in the arts. He is a composer/performer, playing guitar, keyboards, electronics, etc. Founder of two biotechnology companies – Pastorus (autism, other CNS disorders) and Navitas (cardiovascular, metabolic diseases). He has worked at McKinsey and Eli Lilly. Education: MD with Distinction in Research from the University of Michigan; PhD in neuroscience from UCLA, dissertation on human deep-brain responses to musical stimuli. He has a black belt in karate and has run nine marathons, including Istanbul in November 2013.

**GangBhang** is a collective of inattentive *plus ultra* performers from different "walks" of life that include secular and non-secular attitudes and fashions. This time presents a very exciting, but hopefully boring, performance with the very devices that (usually) break our connection with the real world. The performers are Balldie on iPhone, Mojas on Maschine, and Preachermac on iPad.

**Patrick Grant** creates musical works that are a synthesis of classical, popular, and world musical styles that have found place in concert halls, film, theater, dance, and visual media. Over the last three decades, his music has moved from post-punk and classically bent post-minimal styles, through Balinese-inspired gamelan and microtonality, to ambient, electronic soundscapes involving many layers of acoustic and amplified instruments. He is the creator of *International Strange Music Day* (August 24) and the creator/pioneer of the electric guitar procession *Tilted Axes*.

**Amy & Alex Hamlin** are a husband and wife team who enjoy their cats, Walter & Boris, their garden, & traveling to exotic places. They are the founders of the 7-piece soul/rock band *Amy Lynn & The Gunshow*. The duo is enjoying experimenting more with voice and baritone sax with the music from The Gunshow. Together and apart they have played all over the country with acts such as *Yo La Tengo*, *St. Vincent*, Beth Hart, *Duffy*, *The National*, *Spoon*, and *Red Barrat*.

**Niloufar Nourbakhsh** started learning piano at the age of nine at Sarang Institute of Music located in Karaj, Iran. At the age of fifteen, she won the 2nd Prize of Iran's *National Piano Biennale Competition* and performed at Tehran's Roudaki Concert Hall twice as a participant of *The Music Festival from Classical to Modern*. She is a music and math graduate of Goucher College and Oxford University. She has participated in numerous music festivals as a pianist and a composer such as New Paltz Piano Summer, Atlantic Music Festival, and the *Rhymes with Opera Workshop*. She is currently working at Brooklyn Music School Summer Institute as a teaching artist.

**Lorin Roser** is a multimedia artist fascinated with the expression of mathematics. He utilizes algorithms in his musical compositions and physical simulations in his 3D animations. Recent music is created with realtime manipulation of polynomials. This work began in the 80s and was ported to Reaktor in 2004. The realtime was not possible until recent advances in computing. As a musician, Roser has performed at CBGB's, Bowery Poetry Club, the Emily Harvey Foundation with Larry Litt, White Box with Elliott Sharp, and events for curator/performance artist A. Schloss.

**Zero Boy** is an East Village icon who uses a unique blend of sound and mime, the results being something akin to a performed comic book. He can be seen on the upcoming Nickelodeon show *Alien Dawn* as the evil Dr. Drago. He appeared Off-Broadway in the Yllana Production of '666', and has performed regularly on NPR's *The Next Big Thing* in a special "Stump Zero Boy" segment. He has been seen on the *Fox and Friends*, *Good Day New York* and MTV.

## BACKGROUND

*"In 1999 I declared August 24th randomly as Strange Music Day. It gave me an opportunity to come up with a cool graphic and drive home a point that I still believe in to this day: it is always good to listen and play music that we are unfamiliar with. It keeps our ears and outlook fresh. Around 2002, I started noticing that various summer schools were picking up on it as an actual holiday...Once I started seeing postings coming from Europe, I changed the name to International Strange Music Day. It's just been getting bigger every year...."*

- Patrick Grant

*"Recently I've been taking it a step further and we had the first International Strange Music Day Performance Soiree in 2012. I asked the New York new music community to submit their ideas and apply for spots on the concert. I wanted to see a lot of new music notables perform music that they were not usually associated with, to be willing to explore uncomfortable places, to reveal their guilty pleasures and hidden parlor tricks to the public. It was a blast! It was just one those things that came together and happened so well. I and everybody involved are already looking forward to raising the bar for the next event. You have been warned!"*

-International sTRANGE mUSIC Day creator, Patrick Grant, Exploring the Metropolis

*"International Strange Music Day was created by Patrick Grant, a New York City musician. The premise is simple: to get people to play and listen to types of music they have never experienced before. The 'strange' part can mean either unfamiliar or bizarre – the choice is entirely yours. Patrick believes broadening people's musical spectrums can also change the way we look at other aspects of life – his mantra is 'listening without prejudice'. This growing movement has concerts, a record label and strong support from summer schools, where it is appreciated as a great way to stimulate young minds. Have you ever wanted to combine a tight Wonder Woman costume, a frozen turkey drumstick and an inflatable wildebeest into a percussion concert? International Strange Music Day gives you the perfect excuse. What you do with these items once the music stops, of course, is your business... "*

- Days of the Year

**Web page:** <http://www.peppergreenmedia.com/ISMD2014.html>