

MYSTERIUM FOR QUINTET



Terrence Murren • Eric Eigner • Daniel Carter • Gil Selinger • Steve Swell

MYSTERIUM FOR QUINTET

Mysterium is a project
designed to function
as a worldwide
bridge-way to isolated
improvising artists, of
multiple mediums,
cultures, disciplines,
genders and generations,
to come together and
engage in new work.
Due to the rotation of
concept and personnel, it
has a built in mechanism
to keep things new and
fresh, to push and
challenge those involved,
throwing them into
new territories and
experiences, creating a
more expansive and
visceral work.



MYSTERIUM

FOR QUINTET

Steve Swell **Improviser, Trombonist, Composer**

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Steve Swell has been living, working and performing in New York City for most of his adult life. In an effort to find his own voice on his instrument and to learn to write and arrange in a style of his own, he has sought out, performed and recorded with many of the finest composers and improvisers in the city. He has recorded and toured with such diverse jazz personalities as mainstreamers Lionel Hampton and Buddy Rich, to so-called outsiders like Anthony Braxton and Jemeel Moondoc. Swell has 18 recordings as a leader or co-leader and is a featured artist on more than seventy other releases.



Swell first came to public attention performing with Makanda Ken McIntyre in the multi-instrumentalist's concert at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1985 of which Herb Boyd of The Amsterdam News wrote, "Swell possesses a forceful, but mature sound...with a vibrant syncopation..." Later, Swell came to international attention while touring in Europe and recording with alto saxophonist Tim Berne and his group "Caos Totale." There are two studio recordings of this band on the JMT label. During this time Steve also toured and recorded with Joey Baron's "Barondown" which has three releases; one for JMT, one on New World and the most recent for the Avant label.

Even though he is strongly identified with the "downtown scene", Swell has been developing his style in the more so-called "traditional avant-garde" arena. Co-leading such projects as "Space, Time, Swing" with Perry Robinson, being a sideman in William Parker's "Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra" and working with other similar people has kept him on this circuit. Dave McElfresh of Jazz Now wrote in a review of drummer Lou Grassi's CD, PoGressions, "Swell's powerful trombone zooms in and out of the music like a plane diving at a target. Players like himself - and music like this - are to be thanked for the revival of interest in the instrument."

Swell's newest CD, "Slammin' the Infinite" with Sabir Mateen, Matt Heyner and Klaus Kugel was released in November of 2004 on Cadence. CIMP also released a co-lead group with Gebhard Ullman called Desert Songs, which has Barry Altschul and Hill Greene. Drimala Records will be releasing a duo recording with Dominic Duval. "Unified Theory Of Sound, This Now!" featuring Jemeel Moondoc, Wilber Morris, Cooper-Moore, Kevin Norton and Matt Lavelle was released on Cadence in 2003. Swell was also a featured soloist with Anthony Braxton in his opera, "Shala Fears For The Poor" performed at John Jay College in New York and recently taught a master class at New England Conservatory in Boston and is an artist/mentor in the NYC public school system.

MYSTERIUM

FOR QUINTET

Gil Selinger

Improviser, Cellist, Composer, SoundPainting Conductor.

As a cellist, Gil's background is in Classical, Jazz, and Free Improvisation. All of which he has merged into a style called Classical Improvisation. Gil has appeared in every major music space in New York City including Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center, and downtown at Tonic, the Knitting Factory and others. Gil has also appeared on tour throughout Europe, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand.

Gil has several working groups that he is involved in right now including a duo with Pianist Evan Mazunik, the SP4Tet a soundpainting string quartet and a trio with Jessica Pavone and Terence Murren. He also performs with the Walter Thompson Orchestra, and performs and conducts with the NY Soundpainting Orchestra. All of these groups have recordings in various stages of production. Additionally, he often performs with many other players in a variety of settings.

Cellist Gil Selinger was educated at Mannes College of Music (prep), Ithaca College, the Moscow Conservatory (USSR), and has had and continues to have a variety of private teachers and/or coaching as he strives for perfection in his art. Currently he is working with Pedro De Alcantara learning Alexander Technique as it is applied to cello playing, music making, and musical prosody.

Terence Murren - Improviser, Contrabass, Electric Bass

Terence Murren attended Vassar College, where he studied Classical Bass with Sue Powell, Jazz with Michael Gold and Composition with Annae Lockwood. Since moving to New York City in 1997, Murren has continued his studies with bassists Tim Ferguson, Steve Neil and Drew Gress and pianist Myra Melford. Murren co-leads a group, The Eternal Now with singer Samita Sinha which features Lawrence Clark on tenor saxophone and Tomas Fujiwara on drumset.

Murren's performance credits also include The Stephen Gauci Trio, The Billy Bang/Bob Hollman Quartet, The Neil Podgurski Trio, The Jump Festival Orchestra under the direction of Butch Morris, Tom Abbs' Bass Ensemble, the Bruce Eisenbeil Quartet, Assif Tsahar's New York Underground Symphony and Mat Kane's Trophy Wives. He is also a member of the Cajun alt. country band The Doc.



MYSTERIUM FOR QUINTET

Daniel Carter

Improviser, Alto, Tenor, Clarinet, Trumpet, Flute

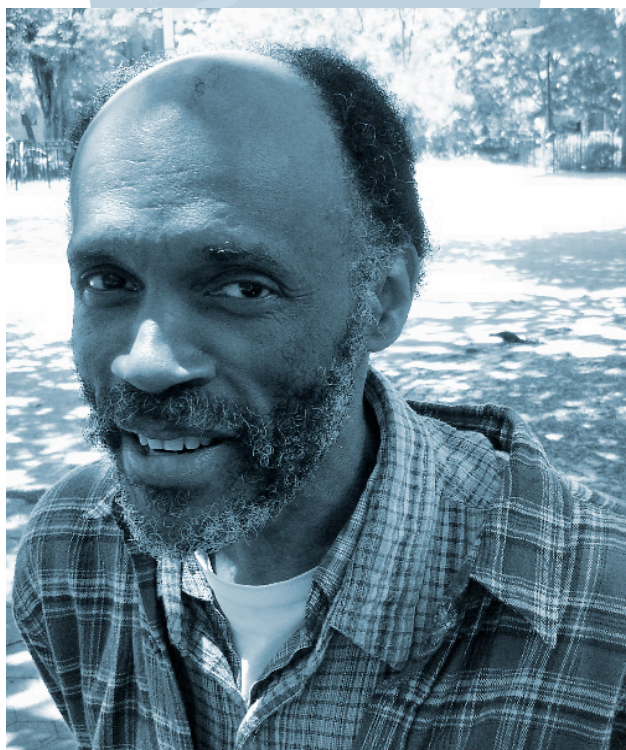
Daniel Carter was born in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, in 1945. He is a writer and a musician, improviser and composer who plays alto and tenor saxophones, flute, trumpet, clarinet, and piano.

As a writer his publications include: The Tinker - Innovative Arts and Literature Magazine, 50 Miles of Elbow Room, Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters, Dyed-in-the-Wool, Intervalsss: The Poems and Words of Musicians, Sex Sells Magazine, Wandering Archive One.

He has performed, recorded, and or toured with many musicians, through the decades, since the mid 60s, including Test, Other Dimensions in Music, Matthew Shipp, Reuben Radding, Federico Ughi, Sun Ra, Cecil Taylor, Sam Rivers, Alan Silva, Jeffrey Shurdut, Sabir Mateen, Stephen Coughlin, Billy Bang, Earl freedman, Karl Berger, William Parker, Matthew Shipp, Hamiet Bluiette, Medeski, Martin, & Wood, Ninni Morgia, Jade Dylan, Vernon Reid, Margaret Beals, Patricia Nicholson Parker, Tom Bruno, Ted Daniels, Thurston Moore, Roy Campbell, Vernon Reid, Wilber Morris, Eri Yamamoto, Matt Lavelle, Matthew Heyner, The No Neck Blues Band, Yo La Tengo, Raphe Malik, Denis Charles, David S. Ware, Gunter Hampel, David Grubbs, Alan Silva, Susie Ibarra, Butch Morris and many others.

Carter has always tried to transcend genre boundaries: Hip Hop, R&B, DJ, European Classical (both traditional and avant-garde), World Music, Abstract, Concrete, Noise, Punk, Hardcore, Electronic, Commercial, Non-commercial, Professional, Non-professional, etc.

Carter lives in Manhattan with his wife, visual artist, Marilyn Sontag.



MYSTERIUM

FOR QUINTET

Eric Eigner

Improviser, Extended Drumset, Sound Effects, Clarinet

Eric Eigner is a drummer who does not need to rely upon the use of sticks and drums to get his point across, though he certainly loves to incorporate them into the fold of what he does. He prefers the use of fireworks and chains, 50cent horns and elephant calls. He has learned from the best and desires to be none of them.

Eric has worked with: Assif Tsahar, Marty Ehrlich, Steve Swell, Sabir Mateen, Walter Thompson's' New York Soundpainting Orchestra, The CAVensemble, Shinichi MOMO Koga, Burnt Sugar, Reuben Radding, and many more.

"Mysterium," one of Eigner's working projects, released its first CD, for trio, in 2004, on Eigner's own Eavesdrop Records. The recording features Downtown Reeds Hero Daniel Carter, and Stunt Guitarist Morgan Craft, alongside Eigner on Extended Drumset and Clarinet. It went on to receive international airplay and press and was nominated into the top 10 albums released that year, in selected reviews, in both Italy and Greece.

This new Mysterium release, for quintet, is his most recent effort.

Eigner is currently working to release an album of duets with Valve Trombonist, Laptop Artist, Christian Pincock. Eigner is a member of Walter Thompson's New York Soundpainting Orchestra where he plays Sound Effects, Clarinet, and Extended Drumset. He is involved in a growing number of working musical situations in NYC, with both local and international talent alike.

Eigner is a working visual artist, who exhibits in NYC, in addition to being a musician.

Check out MYSTERIUMPROJECT.COM for more information



MYSTERIUM

FOR QUINTET

Mysterium – for quintet is the second configuration in the Mysterium continuum. Its recent release on Eavesdrop Records marks the second in an open-ended series of recorded activities for the Mysterium project. The first release, “Mysterium,” was a trio configuration consisting of Daniel Carter on Alto, Tenor, Trumpet, and Flute, Morgan Craft playing Stunt Guitar, and Eric Eigner on Extended Drumset and Clarinet. This first installation went on to get wonderful reviews and airplay around the globe.

“It’s all over the bleedin place- echoplex drenched guitar and trumpet, scattershot shrieking, plucky minimalism, even some breakbeats. These guys have really listened a lot, and have incorporated some very diverse elements into a wild, rambling voice that is sure to grab you.”

Jason Bivins, Cadence Magazine, October 2004

“Well recorded and balanced, this is high-end improv that moves quickly through focused, constantly changing dialogue. There is a sublime, organic flow and thread of close listening going on here as each of these long pieces evolve through different sections.”

Bruce Lee Gallanter, Downtown Music Gallery, December 2003

“An active sound experience. Mysterium grabs hold and forces the listener to hang on for a wild multi-genre ride. Using jazz, drum and bass, blues, rock, funk and some down right nasty noise to produce a transgenerational improvisational engagement.”

Elliott Simon, All About Jazz, June 2004.

“For all the strange cross-pollination of styles—often going on at the same time—there is a strange sense of unity. Each member of the trio has ears big enough to follow leads, and enough personal vision to create direction. Mysterium is a surprisingly likable album from a group that would be even more engaging in person.”

John Kelman, All About Jazz, May 2004.

“The saxophonist carries gamely on, sounding some gorgeous bugle calls and singsong melodies, while drums and guitar play Space Invader ping-pong in the background. When Eigner switches to clarinet there are moments in which the whole group leaves the ground.”

David Keenen, The WIRE, June 2004.