

MEPHISTA

Sylvie Courvoisier (piano)

Ikue Mori (electronics)

Susie Ibarra (drums)

Three of downtown's most dynamic performers join forces to form Mephista-one of the first all women supergroups (Susie Ibarra, Sylvie Courvoisier, and Ikue Mori). Separately these three have worked with some of the most important musicians in new music (Derek Bailey, William Parker, John Zorn, Fred Frith, Mike Patton, Dave Douglas, etc.)-together they have created a whole new kind of music spanning the worlds of rock, classical, jazz and electronica. Sensitive, powerful and exotic.

Recordings Black Narcissus (Tzadic,2002)

Entomological Refections (Tzadic, 2004)

SYLVIE COURVOISIER- Pianist & composer

Sylvie Courvoisier was born and raised in Lausanne, Switzerland.

As a composer, she has been commissioned to write music for concerts, radio, dance and theater. Her newest release as a leader "ABATON" with Mark Feldman and Erik Friedlander is on ECM Records.

As a pianist and improviser, she plays and records with different artists such as Mark Feldman, John Zorn, Tony Oxley, Yusef Lateef, Butch Morris, Tim Berne, Herb Robertson, Joëlle Léandre, Dave Douglas, Susie Ibarra, Ellery Eskelin, Ikue Mori, Fred Frith, Michel Godard, Mark Nauseef...

Since 1998, Sylvie Courvoisier has been based in Brooklyn, New York.

Her recent work includes:

"Abaton", a trio performing her compositions with Mark Feldman violin & Erik Friedlander cello.

"Sylvie Courvoisier Quintet" with Mark Feldman, Vincent Courtois, Ikue Mori, Gerald Cleaver

"Mephista" an improvising trio with Ikue Mori electronics and Susie Ibarra drums.

"Duo" with Mark Feldman playing John Zorn's music

"Vincent Courtois Trio" the French cellist's group with Ellery Eskelin saxophone.

"John Zorn's Cobra"

"Yusef Lateef 4tet" with Yusef Lateef, Adam Rudolph and Joseph Bowie

"Herb Robertson Quintet" with Tim Berne, Tom Rainey and Mark Dresser.

Various Duo and Solo Concerts.

Awards: "Prix des jeunes créateurs" - Switzerland 1996 + "Prix de la Création" - Zonta club, 2000

Selected Discography :

LONELYVILLE- Sylvie Courvoisier 5 (intakt 2007)

MALPHAS - Mark Feldman and Sylvie Courvoisier playing the music of John Zorn (Tzadic 2006)

ABATON - Courvoisier, Feldman, Friedlander (ECM Records, 2cd 2004)

ELABORATION -Herb Robertson Quintet -"Downtown Allstars" (Clean feed Records 2005)

MASADA RECITAL - John Zorn feat .Sylvie Courvoisier & Mark Feldman (Tzadic 2004)

ENTOMOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS - Mephista (Courvoisier, Mori, Ibarra) (Tzadic 2004)

MUSIC FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO - Sylvie Courvoisier & Mark Feldman (Avan Records, 1999)

PASSAGIO - Courvoisier, Leandre Ibarra (Intakt, 2002)

COBRA - John Zorn's (Tzadic 2002)

Y2K - Sylvie Courvoisier Ocre (Enja Records, 2000)

Music for barrel organ, piano, tuba, bass and percussion - Sylvie Courvoisier Ocre (Enja, 1997)

SAUVAGERIE COURTOISE- Sylvie Courvoisier Quintetto (Unit Records, 1994)

Ikue Mori -electronics and composer

Ikue Mori moved from her native city of Tokyo to New York in 1977. She started playing drums and soon formed the seminal NO WAVE band DNA, with fellow noise pioneers Arto Lindsay and Tim Wright. DNA enjoyed legendary cult status, while creating a new brand of radical rhythms and dissonant sounds; forever altering the face of rock music.

In the mid 80's Ikue started in employ drum machines in the unlikely context of improvised music. While limited to the standard technology provided by the drum machine, she has never the less forged her own highly sensitive signature style.

Through out in 90's She has subsequently collaborated with numerous improvisors throughout the US, Europe, and Asia, while continuing to produce and record her own music.

1998, She was invited to perform with Ensemble Modern as the soloist along with Zeena Parkins, and composer Fred Frith, also "One hundred Aspects of the Moon" commissioned by Roulette/Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust.

Ikue won the Distinctive Award for Prix Ars Electronics Digital Music category in 99.

In 2000 Ikue started using the laptop computer to expand on her already signature sound, thus broadening her scope of musical expression.

2000 commissioned by the KITCHEN ensemble, wrote and premired the piece "Aphorism" also awarded Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship

2003 commissioned by RELACHE Ensemble to write a piece for film In the Street and premired in Philadelphia.

Current working groups include "Mephista" with Sylvie Courvoisier and Susie Ibarra, a quartet with Kim Gordon, DJ Olive and Jim O'Rourke, duo project with Zeena Parkins, Trio with Haco and Aki Onda and Hemophiliac with John Zorn and Mike Patton. Worked with the band with Dave Douglas's "Witness" "Freakin" ensemble and John Zorn's Electric Masada.

Susie Ibarra , percussionist and composer of experimental and avant garde music is currently living in New York City. She received a music diploma from Mannes College of Music and B.A. from Goddard College. Susie Ibarra studied percussion with Daniel Druckman, Filipine Kulintang with Danongan Kalanduyan and drum set with Buster Smith, Vernel Fournier and Milford Graves.

As a percussionist, she has performed Filipine Kulintang gong music, southeast asian gong music, jazz and avant jazz with various ensembles, improvised music with the NY downtown scene and solo work. She can be heard on various recordings performing with John Zorn, Pauline Oliveros, Derek Bailey, William Parker, Dave Douglas , John Lindberg , Wadada Leo Smith, Mark Dresser among others.

Susie Ibarra currently performs with her trio, *Susie Ibarra Trio* with Jennifer Choi & Craig Taborn, *Mephista* with Sylvie Couvoisier & Ikue Mori, *Mark Dresser & Susie Ibarra Duo* , *Mundo Ninos* with Roberto Rodriguez , and *Electric Kulintang* with Craig Taborn, Trevor Dunn & Roberto Rodriguez

Selected Discography

Flower after Flower, Susie Ibarra, Tzadik Records Composer Series

SongBird Suite, Susie Ibarra Trio, Tzadik Records

Black Narcissus, Mephista , Tzadik Records

Daedal , & *Bids* , Derek Bailey & Susie Ibarra , Incus Records

Tone Time , Mark Dresser & Susie Ibarra, Wobbly Rail Records

Selected Works

Fractals, solo drum work premiered at Tampere Jazz Happening 2000

SongBird Suite , premiered work Susie Ibarra Trio at Walker Art Center, 2000

Parallel Worlds commission for film, *Parallel Worlds* by Yan Jin 2001

Susie Ibarra Quartet premiered at The Yerba Buena Arts Center CA 2001

Lakbay commissioned for Smithsonian Institute 2002
Electric Kulintang premiere Concert of Colors MI 2002
Balakbayan premiered at the Diego Rivera Courtyard ,Detroit Institute of the Arts, 2003
Shangri-La, new opera work collaborated with librettist Yusef Komunyakaa
commissioned for workshop premiere at Passage Theatre, NJ conducted by Tania Leon , 2003
Susie Ibarra has taught across the U.S and attended .Artist Residencies including:
The Walker Art Center,Mills College, Bard College, Swarthmore College,
Fundacio Joan Miro
She was nominated "Best Drummer" in the Village Voice, Downbeat,Jazziz, The Wire
Susie Ibarra is a Yamaha, Paiste & Vic Firth Artist