

Improvised Music Association

NEWSLETTER

September–November 1991

Volume 1, Number 5

The Herd Scene

by Tom Djll 9/3/91

"...I hate f**ckin' clowns, man." - Ron Anderson
Frank Zappa said it: jazz ain't dead, it just smells funny. And maybe you thought improvised music (need a short word, a catchier word, like SLUB or FNU or DINK, I think. Image is everything.) was dead, but oh, ho no, it just looks funny. Case in point: IDIOT FLESH...saw 'em at OLIVE'S last July, and I can tell you they don't have the biggest Tesla Coil in town. The dense-pak college crowd didn't seem to mind, nor did Rick Rrrr. The swirl goes on at Olive's, which has consolidated its tenacious hold on the slippery Zeitgeist that is the "improvised music audience" in this town, bringing in big fish like ROVA, PAMELA Z, ROOM, GLENN SPEARMAN, BOBOSTERTAG w/ New Yorker (!) CHRIS COCHRAN, and the Only Saxophonist That Matters, JACK WRIGHT. This is not to say we missed a swell show put on by SCATTER TACTICS and the SPLATTER TRIO in a battle to the death (or at least until Steve H.

ran out of things to throw at Myles), the MUDWIMMIN b/w the PHILOSOPHERS, the MAGGIE DUET (no Maggies, just great guitar/drums duos by Dan Lederer and Tim Bolling, with trombone icing by Gila Rayberg), my favorite "jazz-gone-limburgerish" band, RUBBER CITY (smokin' Ornette? Jimi covers), and STRITCH (You haven't heard? That new electroacoustic rockripjamband everyone's talking about? With members drawn from the Molecules, Philosophers, and RoToDoTi?). Top all that with another Olive's-hosted Open Jam in June, and where are you? That's right - right in the center of the best-smelling dungheap west of the Hudson. Aren't you glad you've made the Bay Area the most happening place in 1991? Give yourself a hand! And buy a drink! Dennis sez do it!

Enough of that Olive's scene! Those of us with bridgephobia get our money's worth at our own stall now, the HEINZ. Find it at 59 Grand Ave. at Webster in Oakland. This creation of

(see SCENE REPORT on page 2)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OLIVE'S OR: STRAIGHT TO THE IMPROV CORE

by Rick Rees

I can hardly believe that the first year of Improvcore at Olive's is almost past. It was Thursday Oct. 25th, 1990 that we did our first show, with Bob Ostertag and The Molecules. The following week, Derk Richardson wrote in the SF Bay Guardian "If the series that opened up last Thursday continues to attract the talent and builds up a following, then the improvised music community will have found a new occasional home on the waterfront." It has happened.

My goal was not just to have a regular venue for improv, but to push the music to extremes not heard in the clubs here before. Volume and dis-

sonance are often key elements to get to those extremities, and I'm very excited at the response from rock musicians to this setting. Local bands like Assassins Of God and Trunk have risen to the improv challenge, and shown a rarely seen side of themselves. The Mudwimmin and The Molecules are improv rockers to start with, but at their Olive's appearances they pull out all the stops. Look for the Improvcore pit to spontaneously erupt in front of the stage soon.

Free-jazz has always led the way to the most out improvisation, and I will continue to present it. The recent return of Glenn Spearman was some of the hottest sounds I've heard anywhere. I would like now to get more crossing-over of free-jazz and free-rock players, to boldly go where no

(see OLIVE'S on page 2)

SCENE REPORT

(continued from page 1)

Luke & Lexa has quickly evolved into a fertile venue...it smells jussst right! Opening night, July 19th, BASH! BLONK! FWEET! DWLRP! - that was B.A.S.S., a for-real improv quartet of Myles "B" oisen, Bruce "A" ckley, Ellie "S" choenwetter, and Tom "S" candura bouncing off the walls. PLUTO wrapped up in their inimitable (but almost perfunctory) style - damn, didn't get to see Ralph Carney dance on their piano bar - maybe next time (Rubber City this Wed. 9/11). Anyway, you can seehear shows at Heinz on Weds thru Sats most weeks. Dope!

Another new and highly active venue has emerged in S.F., THE MARSH, at 878 Valencia, that's at 20th St. behind Cafe Beano. They've been running performance art-theatre on Monday and Saturday nights, with music on Wednesdays, curated by Chris Forss. I caught the near-violent femmes of OVARYACTION there, screaming to some old (and new) goddesses. They put that shrinking-violet "womyn's music" in the shade.

Finally, I'd like to mention a very special event that was put on at Theatre Artaud in July. That was Randall Packer's ARCHES, an overwhelming multimedia performance two years in the making. Space doesn't permit a play-by-play, but let me just recommend to you any show put on by New Music Theatre. Parting shot: listen to Brian's show on the KALX Tuesday A.M.'s! Double-D-Dope! Thank you, KALX!



IMA Newsletter

Editor: Myles Boisen

Contributing Writers: Tom Djill, Rick Rees

Design: Michael Macrone

Improvised Music Association/
Composers' Cafeteria

2149 Curtis Street, Berkeley CA 94702

Olive's

(continued from page 1)

music has gone before! You can't go too far out at Olive's.

I have been swamped with requests from bands to book, and this is great. I try to give priority to the bands that are the most free playing, but the slots are limited and it's hard to pay more than two groups per night. I'm going to try showcasing lesser known players/ bands on the patio during breaks on the inside main stage. There won't be much money for the patio players, but there will be the Improvcore audience. So bring your jacket and enjoy Improvcore On The Bay.

I would like to thank some people who have made Improvcore work this past year. Dennis Ring is the manager and friendly bartender at Olive's who has encouraged me through thick and thin. He has become a closet improviser, and if you're lucky you can sometimes hear him jamming with the bands from behind the bar. Jim Cribley has been sound engineer for nearly every show. His love of the music and general good nature makes each show less work and more fun. Ron Anderson is the Molecule with attitude who often brings gear, energy and inspiration to help me out. He got me started on this thing simply by encouraging my own playing. Laura Wernick and Myles Boisen with Sound Affects have been doing this forever, and I thank them for showing me how it's done. Also thanks to Steve Horowitz, Greg Stovall and Herb Heinz for continuous involvement and support.

And thanks to all of you who come to the shows. Many of you are Improvcore regulars, and for that reason alone must be considered the most courageous people in the Bay Area...after the bands, that is.

(Thank you Rick, from all of us, especially this crusty oldtimer who, one year ago, was very skeptical that a weekly improv series could ever get off the ground, especially on a deserted waterfront pier. You've taught us all a thing or two about the value of our music. - MB)

IMA CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- Tues 10 MATT BRUBECK BAND at Berkeley Store Gallery, 2230 Shattuck in downtown Berkeley (next to Shattuck Theatre). 8:00, \$5.00, (510) 444-8606 for info.
- Wed 11 WIGSVILLE/ RUBBER CITY at Heinz, 59 Grand Ave. at Webster in downtown Oakland. 9:30, (510) 834-8048 for info.
- Thurs 12 THE MANUFACTURING OF HUMIDIFIERS' live S.F. record release party (with THE MOLECULES), at Olive Oils, on Pier 50 in China Basin, S.F. 9:00 P.M., \$5.00, call (415) 550-8209 for info.
- Fri 13 ESKIMO/ E IS FOR ELEPHANT at Heinz, as above.
- Sat 14 MX-80/ SUNDIALS at Heinz, as above.
- Mon 16 "The Sound Of One Person Playing" presents solo sets by MYLES BOISEN and RALPH CARNEY at 3435 Army St. #347, in S.F. 8:00 P.M., \$4.00, (415) 695-9314 for info.
- Wed 18 THING EATING STUFF/ A LIMBIC SYSTEM at Heinz, as above.
- Thurs 19 PAMELA Z/ QUBE CHIX/ NEBUCHADNEZAR PHEZ DISPENSER at Heinz, as above.
- Fri 20 ROOM plays new loud compositions, at the Mills College Concert Hall, Music Building, in Oakland. 8:00, cheap.
- Sat 21 ROVA SAXOPHONE QUARTET/ SOTO at Heinz, as above.
- Sun 22 SPLATTER TRIO WITH STEVE BENSON at 848 Divisadero, in S.F. Bring art supplies. 5:00-8:00, \$5.00 donation, call (510) 548-3765 for info.
- Mon 23 "The Sound Of One Person Playing" presents solo sets by BEN GOLDBERG and JOSEPH SABELLA at 3435 Army St. # 347, in S.F., as above.
- Tues 24 THE MANUFACTURING OF HUMIDIFIERS live East Bay record release party at the Berkeley Store Gallery, as above.
- Wed 25 O-TYPE/ TBA at Heinz, as above.
- Thurs 26 ROBERT HAVEN/ DAVID MIHALY/ ANDRE playing solo at 848 Divisadero in S.F. 9:00, \$5.00 donation.
- Fri 27 POTATO EATERS/ SLUGGO at Heinz, as above.
- Mon 30 "The Sound Of One Person Playing" presents solo sets by STEVE ADAMS and GINO ROBAIR at 3435 Army St. #347, in S.F., as above.

OCTOBER

- Thurs 3 IMPROVCORE ORCHESTRA ten-member improv extravaganza, sponsored by Amoeba Music. At Olive Oils, on Pier 50 in China Basin, S.F. 9:00 P.M., (415) 550-8209 for info.
- Mon 7 "The Sound Of One Person Playing" presents solo sets by DAVE BARRETT and J.A. DEANE at 3435 Army St. #347, in S.F., as above.
- Tues 15 STEVE ADAMS at Berkeley Store Gallery, as above.
- Sun 20 Media party and mixer with THE MANUFACTURING OF HUMIDIFIERS at The Lab on Divisidero, in S.F. 6:00 P.M., admission by donation, (415) 731-4221 for info - Fun! Fun! Fun!
- Mon 21 IMA NEWSLETTER AND ASSESSMENT MEETING - very important! Please come prepared with ideas, answers, energy, newsletter submissions, fees and donations. 8:30 P.M. at Rick Rees' pad - 2940-C Folsom, in S.F., (415) 550-8209 for info.
- Wed 23 through Sat 26 DEREK BAILEY COMPANY WEEK - stay tuned for more details.

NOVEMBER

- Sat 5 ROVA SAXOPHONE QUARTET plays new pieces by ROVA and John Carter at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez in S.F. 8:15, \$9.00
- Mon 11 IMA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - have your ads, listings, articles, etc. to the newsletter editor by this date for the December issue.
- Tues 12 GRAHAM CONNAH'S ILL-ADVISED CURIOSITY at Berkeley Store Gallery, as above.
- Mon 18 IMA NEWSLETTER MAILING - a great chance to chat and get those newsletters mailed out. 7:30 P.M. at Rick Rees' residence - 2940-C Folsom, in S.F., (415) 550-8209 for info.
- Tues 19 MYLES BOISEN AND FIENDS at Berkeley Store Gallery, as above.

CALL THE 24-HOUR IMPROV HOTLINE—(415) 550-8180—FOR WEEKLY LISTINGS-NO CHARGE TO CALLERS!

CLASSIFIEDS

STUDIOS/ REHEARSAL SPACE/ SERVICES

THE CODE—Professional Multitrack Recording. We want to record all the improvised music in the Bay Area. Low rates, spec deals, you name it. Call Steve (415) 681-5547.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY—PEOPLE'S RATES—Support organic farmers! Reduce-re-use-recycle! For photos: headshot group, promotional, cover-art: call Periwinkle Press photography! References. Studio. Kristina—(510) 548-3765.

PLAYERS WANTED/AVAILABLE

ROTODOTI—Improvised music with trombone, cello, computer and original musical instruments. For all occasions! (415) 282-1562.

SOTO SAXMAN AVAILABLE for serious projects. Also looking for cello or violin player for creative projects. Currently working with Soto Trio (saxophones and percussion). Contact: Sivad Allahbey, (510) 654-2449.

BACKSTEP FORWARD plays "Ambient thrash bop" in an electric manner. They're pumped up to play for your dining and dancing pleasure. Contact Jonathan (415) 229-0157.

RON KUKAN—guitar and improvised assault—is looking for recording/performance/improv call (415) 543-1701.

GUITARIST WANTS TO FORM/JOIN FREE JAZZ BAND. Afro-Amer. musical/rhythmic trads. as jumping-off place for experiments in rhythm and form. Could include: modal, tonal centers, impromptu changes of tempo and meter, internal development of a piece, motivic improv... Prefer polyrhythmic drummer w/jazz feel. Kimi (415) 550-1263.

RECORDINGS

THE MANUFACTURING OF HUMIDIFIERS's first CD, *Dire Images of Beauty*, is here! It is weird, communicative, honest, and very good. Check out this debut of the group who defines "psycho-chamber jazz." Send your check for \$11 (\$10 for cassette) to Randy Porter, at 2149 Curtis St., Berkeley CA 94702; or call (510) 548-1095. Price includes postage.

NEW KLEZMER TRIO CD, *Masks and Faces*, available now. Ask at your local record store, or call Ben Goldberg at (510) 444-8606.

MYLES BOISEN/ A SMALL TRIBE

(510) 548-3765

P.O. Box 8086, Berkeley, CA.

94707-8086

(an independant improvised music label)

ACCIDENTAL DIALECTS - a new arrangement for several improvisors by Myles Boisen (60 min. cassette)

NOTOCHORD - Eric Muhs & Myles Boisen w/ Gino Robair & Fred Lonberg-Holm (CD and cassette)

SPLATTER TRIO (CD and limited edition hand-splattered cassette)

BEACH OGRES "A-Z" - Studio tapes from 1984/85 w/ Myles, K. Johnston, Kent Randolph, Marc Weinstein (cassette)

also available for hire ... guitar and bass ... studio engineering and production... recording ... lessons ... music writing and reading ... thank you

IMPROVCORE ORCHESTRA

After the competitive antics of the Battle Of The Bands, producers Steve Horowitz and Myles Boisen have buried the hatchet and teamed up once again to bring a new project, The Improvcore Orchestra, to Olive's on Thurs. October 3rd. This improvisational extravaganza will feature ten well-known local improvisors pooling their talents to arrange, conduct and perform a full evening of free and scored improvisation for guitars, basses, horns, reeds, keyboards, drums and vocals.

The lineup includes Myles Boisen (Splatter Trio), Steve Horowitz (Scatter Tactics), Steve Kirk (Clubfoot Orch.), Robert Marsanyi, Nik Phelps (Clubfoot Orch.), Randy Porter (Manufacturing Of Humidifiers), Gino Robair (Splatter Trio), David Slusser (Pluto), Ward Spangler, and Tom Yoder (Eskimo).

This event is being sponsored by everyone's favorite record store - Amoeba Music (2455 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley, call them at (510) 549-1125). We thank Marc and Amoeba for their generous contribution, and Rick Rees for his continued support of hard-core improvised music. Tickets are available at the usual outlets.

IMPROVCORE
September
MOLECULES/HUMIDIFIERS
LETHAL GOSPEL NAKED LADY WRESTLERS
PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST
October
Amoeba Music 549-1125 presents
IMPROVCORE ORCHESTRA
BUCKETHEAD FRACTURE
ELLIOTT SHARP SCATTERTACTICS
MIRACLE ROOM
November
"THE ROCK SHOW"
PHIL MINTON from London
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Aquarius, Auricular
olive's
PIER 50 China Basin SF 550-8209
(Near the end of 4th Street. Bus 15)

WHAT'S UP, PEOPLE?

When we first proposed the formation of what is now known as the IMA, I felt it was important to keep the organization as unstructured as possible for two major reasons. First, it seemed that an open, casual approach (based on the way we tend to organize ourselves in musical situations) would encourage participation by a wide variety of improvisors and stimulate diverse opinions. Second, it simply made sense to let people contribute as much or as little as they wanted to a volunteer organization like ours, where benefits were intangible at best.

At that time there was only one regular venue for our music (Olive's), and with a potential Knitting Factory West on the horizon, interest and optimism were running high. Meetings were packed, debate was spirited, everyone was "networking" like crazy, and we decided to put out this newsletter as a way of publicizing and expanding our activities. And it worked! Now with 3 regular venues going, larger audiences, bands putting out CD's, high-profile media events and more, it would seem that the IMA newsletter is more crucial than ever - but suddenly participation is at an all-time low! Is this just a late summer lull, or is it time to re-assess the goals and scope of the IMA and this publication? What can be done to sustain and increase the work of our association? The proposed improv hotline will help, as will publishing meeting info in the newsletter. But I want to know what YOU, the players, listeners and readers think - please take some time to answer these questions, phone or write in your replies to the staff, or bring ideas to the next IMA meeting.

Has the IMA benefitted you in some way so far? If not, why not; what can you do, or what can we do to serve a wider section of the improv community?

How can we get more folks involved in IMA meetings? Do you enjoy these newsletters? What features would you like to see more or less of in these pages? Would you like to contribute articles or advertising? Can you make a donation?

Any ideas on funding for the newsletter or IMA in general?

And most importantly, would you like to be a participant in the most active improvising community in the U.S., right here in the Bay Area?

Let us know what you think - please call or write or attend the next meeting on Monday, October 21 at 8:30 p.m. (see the calendar on p. 3 for details).

THE NEW 24-HOUR IMPROV HOTLINE

(415) 550-8180

Due to communication and other problems with the newsletter calendar listing, we have decided to try a telephone "Improv Hotline" for IMA event information. The hotline will be updated every Monday, and will announce gigs taking place that week through Sunday. A \$10 fee allows you to list any 25-word announcement in the newsletter, plus get unlimited listings on the hotline for the three month newsletter period. A single hotline listing is \$3, or you can just pay \$10 for unlimited hotline listings even if you don't put anything in the newsletter.

The hotline is starting up immediately - please help us get it going by listing often, paying the fees AND putting the hotline number on all your posters, postcards, etc. Send payment along with your listings (make checks out to Composer's Cafeteria for the time being, but don't send to the Curtis St. address) to Rick Rees at 2940-C Folsom, San Francisco 94110. And remember, anyone can call the hotline 24 hours a day to find out about that weeks improvised music events, and there is no charge for callers!

What Is the IMA?

The IMA's principal function is to provide a forum for improvising musicians and listeners to create settings for and generate information about improvised music. In so doing, its primary tool is the IMA Newsletter, which acts as a focal point for information on improv music events and other related developments.

The IMA Newsletter contains articles related to improv music, concert listings for bands, a phone hotline number for events news (updated weekly), classified ads, and display ads.

Ad Rates

Band/club listings—\$10 for each 25 words; this listing also entitles you to post weekly event listings on the phone hotline.

Classified listings—\$5 for each 25 words.

Display ads—\$30 for 2" x 2"; \$50 for 2" x 4".

For more information, call:

Myles Boisen (Newsletter)—(510) 548-3765
 Steve Horowitz (Advertising)—(415) 731-4221
 Rick Rees (Improv Hotline)—(415) 550-8209

THE HEINZ CLUB

I cruised down to Heinz one night to catch a sputtering slobbering skittering AACM-style set by 3/4 of SPEED THE PARTING GUEST. Loved the brash style, and attention paid to small sonic details (Lucija sez "sorta existential, yet friendly") within the rapid-fire interaction of Randy McKean, Eric Bergkvist and Michael Gendreau. Also checked out THE AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD CORETET, who turned in a limber set of jazz originals and free playing - frontliners Tracy McMullen and Annelise Zamula are the most engaging saxophone duo I've heard since Rubber City came along. This makes a great intro to my spiel about Luke & Lexa, the masterminds behind the ambitious HEINZ CLUB series.

L & L tell me things have been a bit slow so far on their improv nights (after only a month of gigs), but in general their ambitious 3 or 4 nights a week booking policy is paying off, and the proprietors are happy to be hosting the new East Bay hotspot. Owner Charlie even played a little piano during a sensational show by Idiot Flesh, which drew over 200 folks and featured a Vanna White/ Let's Make A Deal floorshow! (Top that, Rick!) We're hoping that their plans to expand into acoustic shows, spoken word, rap, and more theatrical acts will pan out, and that they will continue to feature improv (Luke's favorite) on a regular basis. Heinz is a great place to hear and play music, with superb acoustics and a funky, but clean continental hofbrau ambience. Locals and regulars add credibilty (and bewildered comments) to the scene, which is also spiced up by a variety of disco-era lighting devices. Get on down there, folks. For booking or other info call (510) 834-8048.

CREATIVE MUSIC SERIES

Clarinetist Ben Goldberg has been producing a Tuesday night "Creative Music Series" for the past few months at the Berkeley Store Gallery, next to the Shattuck Theatre at 2230 Shattuck in downtown Berkeley.

The series focus is on mostly acoustic music (no grindcore here, folks), with an open-ended jazz orientation, although electronics, electric guitars, big drumkits etc. are not discriminated against. Bonnie, the gallery head, always has plenty of good art hanging, making this a "classic" gallery gig in an unhurried environment that has recently hosted Beth Custer, Splatter, Speed The Parting Guest and more improvisors. For booking and more info, call Ben at (510) 444-8606.

THE SOUND OF ONE PERSON PLAYING

"The Sound Of One Person Playing" is an upcoming solo series curated by Dave Barrett, taking place on four consecutive Monday nights beginning September 16th (see ad and listings for details). Dave says "The intent here is to give improvisors an outlet specifically to explore solo playing, which is an important part of the vocabulary. As a player myself, I feel it's valuable to develop the ability to stand alone and make compelling music - to really deal with your instrument as a complete sonic universe. And, I think it can be a unique and exhilarating experience for an audience." The series will take place at "Bates Motel", an intimate loft space located at 3435 Army St., #347 (in the old Sears building at Army & Valencia) in San Francisco. Dave also curated the successful "Exercises For Ear" music/poetry pairings, and hopes this series will generate enough interest to continue beyond the scheduled four weeks, observing that "There are a whole lot of talented improvisors around here now, but precious few opportunities to play, solo or otherwise."

COMPANY WEEK—NEWS FLASH!

Just as we were going to print, our roving reporters got news that the long-anticipated DEREK BAILEY COMPANY WEEK is finally going to be a reality! Details are sketchy, but the event's catalyst, none other than John Zorn, supplied the following info:

English free music pioneer / guitarist Derek Bailey will be here October 23/ 24/ 25/ 26 (Wed. - Sat.) to lead a bay area debut of his world-famous improvising ensemble Company. Members of this mix & match lineup will include Jon Raskin (saxes), Buckethead (guitar), Tim Perkis (electronics), Willie Winant (percussion), Kash Killion (cello), Mary Jane Donald (percussion), and J.A. Deane (trombone, electronics). Location and other details are unknown at presstime, but if you are at all interested in improvised music, YOU MUST GO TO THESE SHOWS! Mark your calendars now, spread the word, and keep your eyes peeled for the particulars in the music press.

the
sound
of one
person
playing

B A T E S M O T E L

<u>Sept. 16</u> Myles Boisen Ralph Carney	<u>Sept. 23</u> Ben Goldberg Joseph Sabella
<u>Sept. 30</u> Steve Adams	<u>Oct. 7</u> Dave Barrett

3435 Army Street #347, S.F. 8 p.m. \$4

LOCAL REVIEWS

Those pancultural polymorphs PLUTO have at last committed some of their fave live and studio picks to tape. The result is no substitute for seeing this chameleonic combo in the flesh, but does a nice job of showcasing the band's most attractive features. Change is the only constant here - not the rapid-fire channel changing of John Zorn, but a fluid parade of genres made possible by the unit's dedication to spontaneity. Blues, ethnic soundscapes, marches, funk, 21st century jazz and really the whole ball of earwax develop organically in this context; almost always served up with good taste and a high degree of musicality. For fans of deep grooving, grungy, funny, nostalgic no-attitude improv. One of the few items I can listen to any time of the day.

I'll admit to not following ROVA close enough, but whenever I do tune in it's always a pleasant surprise. Their 1989 U.S.S.R. tour CD "This Time We Are Both" (New Albion 041) documents the saxy foursome at a peak of onstage inspiration matched only by their live LP with Braxton. After their subsequent re-organization, Raskin, Ochs, Ackley and Adams worked hard, exploring every facet of the sax quartet format in preparation for their return to the U.S.S.R. Their efforts resulted in a stunning variety of approaches - witness the happily grooving orchestration of "Third Terrain", the Martian Tower Of Power-ish funk of "torque", the delicate intensity of "The Freedom Of Information", and "The Unquestioned Answer", a lengthy string of solos, duos and trios fused with dark quartet scoring. These guys play SO WELL together here, producing a major work that is also a valuable primer for anyone doing scored improvisation.

And what's this from HENRY KAISER...a welcome return to free improvising in the form of a guitar duo CD entitled "Tomorrow Knows Where You Live" (Victo 014). Henry's partner is Jim O'Rourke, an astounding young player who has already mastered acoustic, electric and prepared guitar vocabulary! The two met during last year's Company Week, and so you do hear faint echoes of matchmaker Derek Bailey and Keith Rowe in their work. But by and large they leave the old world behind, heading off boldly into uncharted waters. Along the way they traverse vast oceans of lush and subtle textures (these are my favorite moments), also encountering swirling sci-fi soundscapes, dense electrical storms, strong soloing and a little hyperactive note-slinging. A great set (recorded in just two hours of studio time!), marred only by arrogant dogmatic rantings where liner notes should be.

BIL KING, improv promoter of Eugene, OR. and instrument builder, has been busy in the barn recording his first cassette - "Bil King's Cold Bath". This debut features three guitar cuts and six energetic pieces for his homemade "board". A mega-version of Frith's horizontal hybrids, Bil's creation sports 14 strings and 2 pickups mounted on a sturdy 8 foot plank. Played with slides, E-bows, sticks, or just by hand, the "board" is a sonic marvel, with floor-shaking depth, a wide range of expression and tons of potential for emotive and unearthly sounds. This instrument has its' own personality, and Bil lets it speak for itself, using a just a bit of textural overdubbing. By comparison, the guitar improvs seem insignificant, although "Too (Much Too) Long" is a nice excursion into dense hammering ala Nancarrow. Let's hear more from Bil and you other inventors! For more info about the tape, or the Eugene scene, contact Bil at Off The Wall Productions - (503) 895-2965.

Next time...The Molecules, Gino Robair, and maybe even you!

—Myles Boisen

What About the Improv Festival?

Lately I've been fielding a lot of questions from people wondering when the next Sound Affects Bay Area Improvised Music Festival will happen. Well, there are no plans to do a 3rd annual festival, and Sound Affects (the all-volunteer organization that presented the 1989 and 1990 events) is currently inactive. This leaves the door wide open for a new group of energetic individuals to step in and get busy on a 1992 fest. It's a lot of work, but loads of fun too, and a great experience for musicians and fans who want to learn about promotion, event production, community organizing, etc. Call Myles at (510) 548-3765 for well-intentioned advice. And speaking of the festival, it looks like Concepts Cultural Gallery (480 3rd St. in Oakland) is once again an active force in the bay area improving/ jazz scene. Concerts are back on a regular schedule, and, after a long absence, their in-house community arts magazine "Konceptualizations" has resumed publication. The 24-page summer issue is really beautiful, with an improved larger format, lots of worthwhile writing and art, and a no-jive assessment of the current multi-cultural programming situation by general manager Edsel Matthews. Required reading for all music fans and promoter types.

V I S I T

Amoeba music

The Bay Area's Best Indie Store
is now open on Telegraph!

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AMOEBAsays "YOW" to improv music!
Come by and leave flyers announcing
upcoming shows of interests.

Please contribute writings to the *IMA Newsletter*. News items will be printed for free. Event listings will be charged \$10 for the first listing and \$5 for each additional listing. (For additional rates, see p. 5.) Proceeds will cover the costs of this newsletter. Make checks payable to: The Composers Cafeteria, at 2149 Curtis Street, Berkeley, CA 94702-1815.

Your news item or listing:

And get on the mailing list!!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The Composers' Cafeteria

*Improvised Music
Association*

NEWSLETTER

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Berkeley, CA 94702-1815



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