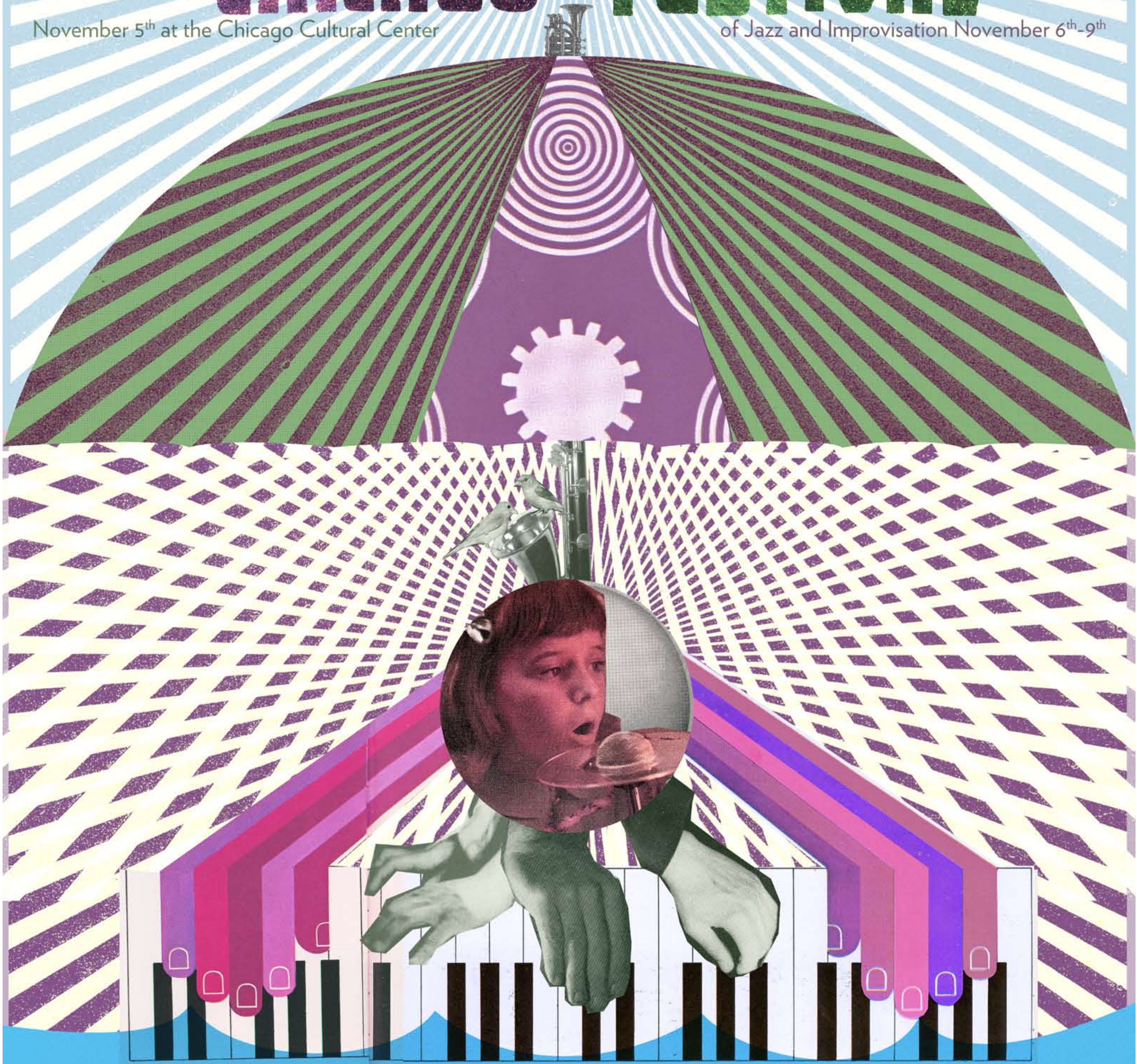


EUROPEAN JAZZ MEETS CHICAGO

UMBRELLA & MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 5th at the Chicago Cultural Center

of Jazz and Improvisation November 6th-9th



EUROPEAN JAZZ MEETS CHICAGO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
@ THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

6:00 : Christian Weber Quartet
6:45 : Elisabeth Harnik Group
7:30 : Mikolaj Trzaska Trio
8:15 : Schlippenbach/Lovens Duo
9:00 : Zu
10:00 : Braam-De Joode-Vatcher

3RD ANNUAL UMBRELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL OF JAZZ AND IMPROVISED MUSIC

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
@ THE VELVET LOUNGE

9:00 : Rempis/Kessler/Vatcher
10:00 : Josh Berman Quintet
11:00 : Alexander Von Schlippenbach Solo

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
@ ELASTIC

9:00 : Harnik/Bauder/Roebke
10:00 : John Tchicai Solo
11:00 : Bik-Bent-Braam

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH @ THE HIDEOUT

9:00 : Trzaska/O'Reilly/Weber/Fujiwara
10:00 : Tchicai/Drake Duo
11:00 : Douglas Ewart And Inventions

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
@ THE HUNGRY BRAIN

9:00 : Baker/Williams/Sandstrom/Hunt
10:00 : Taylor Ho Bynum Quintet
11:00 : John Tchicai Septet

The 2008 Umbrella Music Festival
is presented in partnership
with The Elastic Arts Foundation



and sponsored in part by
The Boeing Company



UMBRELLA MUSIC is a group of Chicago-based musicians and presenters working together to provide concert opportunities for creative and improvising musicians. Their goal is to pool resources in order to reach a larger audience for the music, and to provide better performance situations for artists. Umbrella members curate weekly concert series at Elastic, the Hideout, and the Hungry Brain, and work together to produce the Umbrella Music Festival each fall. Members include Josh Berman, Mitch Cocanig, Mike Reed, Dave Rempis, Ken Vandermark, special adviser Mike Orlove, and web designer Tushar Samant. More information about the group and the events they produce is available at WWW.UMBRELLAMUSIC.ORG.

2008 marks the second annual EUROPEAN JAZZ MEETS CHICAGO event, a collaboration between several different European Consulates and cultural institutions. The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and Umbrella Music. Groundbreaking European artists will be showcased for free to kick off the week's festivities. Presenting countries include Austria, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, and Switzerland.

Umbrella Music would like to extend special thanks to the The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, The Elastic Arts Foundation, The Velvet Lounge, The Hideout, The Hungry Brain, Mike Orlove, Fred Anderson, Paul Giallorenzo, Tim Tuten, Katie Tuten, Dan Morrizo, Luz Cordova, and Janice White, for all the work they do to help support this music in an ongoing way.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH @ THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER
78 E. Washington St. / FREE!!
www.chicagoculturalcenter.org / 312-744-6630

“EUROPEAN JAZZ MEETS CHICAGO”

Produced in partnership with The Austrian Consulate General, The Goethe Institut Chicago, The Friends of Goethe, The Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, The Consulate General of The Netherlands, The Polish Cultural Institute (NYC), The Consulate General of Poland, The Consulate General of Switzerland, and The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

6:00 PM : CHRISTIAN WEBER QUARTET (SWITZERLAND)
Claudia Cassidy Theater


- Caroline Davis – alto saxophone
- Jeb Bishop – trombone
- Christian Weber – bass
- Tim Daisy – drums

Since his arrival on the European jazz/improvised music scene at the end of the nineties, Christian Weber has proven himself to be one of Switzerland's most original voices of the last forty years. Although he is best known for his attacking approach to the bass, he is also an accomplished composer and electronic musician with over twenty recordings in his discography. In addition to regular solo performances and work with such groups as Day & Taxi and Sudden Infant, Weber remains a very active improviser, having performed with the likes of Evan Parker, Johannes Bauer, and Irène Schweizer, to name a few. This first-time meeting will find him with Jeb Bishop, Caroline Davis and Tim Daisy representing three different generations of Chicago improvisors.

6:45 PM : ELISABETH HARNIK GROUP (AUSTRIA)
Preston-Bradley Hall


- Elisabeth Harnik – piano
- Taylor Ho Bynum – cornet
- Jeff Parker – guitar

Classically trained Austrian pianist and composer Elisabeth Harnik has, in the last few years, become one of improvised music's most unique voices on prepared and unprepared piano. As her 2005 release *irrt, irrt das ohr* (Extraplatte) demonstrates, Harnik is equally talented at working “inside” the piano through the use of extended techniques, as well as rhythmically exploring the keyboard throughout her tightly constructed improvisations. Her most recent project finds her exploring the electro-acoustic possibilities of prepared piano with German mainstays Johannes Bauer and Clayton Thomas. For her Chicago debut, she's joined by two of America's most in-demand and original voices on their respective instruments: New York-based cornetist Taylor Ho Bynum, and Chicago's own Jeff Parker on guitar.

7:30 PM: MIKOLAJ TRZASKA TRIO (POLAND)
Claudia Cassidy Theater


- Mikolaj Trzaska – reeds
- Kent Kessler – bass
- Michael Zerang – drums


As one of the leading voices of jazz and improvised music in Poland, multi-instrumentalist and composer Mikolaj Trzaska has worked with a myriad of musicians in many different groupings throughout Europe including such luminaries as Lester Bowie, Peter Brötzmann, John Tchicai, and Tomasz Stanko. His discography is lengthy, featuring over 30 recordings, many on his own Kilogram Records imprint. Recently, Trzaska forged relationships with several Chicago improvisers through his participation in Ken Vandermark's Resonance Project, which took place in Poland during November of 2007. For his Chicago debut, he's joined by one of Chicago's finest rhythm sections: the dynamic Kent Kessler on bass, and master percussionist Michael Zerang.

8:15 PM : SCHLIPPENBACH/LOVENS DUO (GERMANY)
Preston-Bradley Hall


- Alexander Von Schlippenbach – piano
- Paul Lovens – drums

Since the late Sixties, with groups such as The Schlippenbach Trio and The Globe Unity Orchestra, Alexander von Schlippenbach and Paul Lovens have forged a musical language that has served as the foundation for what has become known worldwide as “improvised music.” With their relentless imaginations and masterful skills on

their respective instruments, they have consistently reinvented the music that they helped to create, and have remained extremely active in a host of projects. Schlippenbach and Lovens have recorded just one album together as a duo - 1984's *Stranger Than Love* on Lovens' Po Torch record label, and they rarely perform in this most intimate of groupings. So this performance is one not to be missed.

9:00 PM : ZU (ITALY)
Claudia Cassidy Theater



- Luca Mai – baritone saxophone
- Massimo Pupillo – electric bass
- Jacopo Battaglia – drums

Formed in Rome in 1997, ZU began as composers and players organized for theatre performances. The band, comprised of: Luca Mai on baritone saxophone, Massimo Pupillo on bass and Jacopo Battaglia on drums, have released thirteen albums and toured relentlessly across Europe and America. Despite changes over the years, ZU's style is improvisation-based, with hardcore-like rhythmic sections, free-jazz based saxophone solos and tinges of noise rock.

One constant element in ZU's music is collaboration, and many of the band's albums are billed as collaborations with a guest musician and producers (such as Mats Gustafsson, Eugene Chadbourne, and Nobukazu Takemura).

The band's album *Radiale*, recorded with Chicago based engineer Bob Weston, was placed in The Village Voice's jazz poll for 2004.

10:00 : BRAAM-DE JOODE-VATCHER (THE NETHERLANDS)
Randolph Street Café



- Michiel Braam – piano
- Wilbert De Joode – bass
- Michael Vatcher – drums

Trio Braam-DeJoode-Vatcher comprises three of the Dutch jazz scene's most idiosyncratic musicians, for whom freedom and adventure are essential values. They all play an absolutely equal role in the music, which can go in any which way, depending on decisions made on the spot. The long musical friendship (since 1989) results in intuitive playing of the highest order.

Trio Braam-DeJoode-Vatcher shines in short powerful pieces, honoring the jazz tradition by pushing it ahead with consummate, dazzling skill. The trio combines a playful incorporation and expansion of older forms with a great adventurousness.

For the latest CD, *Change This Song*, Michiel Braam wrote 18 small compositions, which can be played in any given order, mood or style. All titles are anagrams of “change this song”, a reference to the trio's playful approach to the music.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH @ THE VELVET LOUNGE
67 E. Cermak Rd. / \$15 cover / www.velvetlounge.net / 312-791-9050

9:00 PM : REMPIS/KESSLER/VATCHER

- Dave Rempis – saxophones
- Kent Kessler – bass
- Michael Vatcher – drums

Dave Rempis has emerged over the last decade as one of the most active players on Chicago's improvised music scene. Originally noticed for his longstanding tenure with the Vandermark Five, Rempis is now known for the many groups he leads or co-leads, including the Rempis Percussion Quartet and The Engines, among many others.

Bassist Kent Kessler has been one of the ubiquitous members of the Chicago improvising scene. Since the early '90s he's anchored Hal Russell's NRG Ensemble, The Vandermark 5, DKV Trio as well as performing with leading European improvisers such as German powerhouse Peter Brötzmann, and Swedish saxophonist Mats Gustafsson. Kessler has also worked with some legends from closer to home, including Joe McPhee and Fred Anderson.

Over 25 years ago California native Michael Vatcher moved to the Netherlands. Since then he has become one of the most creative and respected drummers on The European improvising scene. Vatcher has played with such groups as Available Jelly, the Tristan Honsinger Sextet, the Martin Altena Ensemble, John Zorn, The Ex, and Van Dyke Parks.

10:00 PM : JOSH BERMAN QUINTET

- Josh Berman – cornet
- Keefe Jackson – reeds
- Jason Adasiewicz – vibes
- Jason Roebke – bass
- Frank Rosaly – drums

Entrenched in the city's heavily overlapped avant-jazz community, Josh Berman is a prolific cornetist whose projects often include a handful of the same dozen-plus musicians. He leads a pair of eponymous groups—Josh Berman Group as well as Josh Berman and his Gang—but he's active in close to ten other Chicago jazz bands.

This quintet features Jason Adasiewicz on vibraphone, Keefe Jackson on tenor saxophone, Anton Hatwich on bass and Frank Rosaly on drums. Dealing with early jazz, free improvisation and modern composition Berman has been creating music for this specific group of improvisers for a two years.

Adasiewicz and drummer Rosaly join Berman in each of his self-titled groups, and the three also collaborate in Adasiewicz's Rolldown. Rosaly joins Berman in Rosaly's Kite Ensemble, Keefe Jackson's Fast Citizens, Keefe Jackson's Project Project, Chicago Luzern Exchange and Slow Cycle; Adasiewicz also joins Berman in Exploding Star Orchestra, Lucky 7s, and The Hats. It's almost too daunting to remember without a chart, but the boundless in-breeding is a prime example of Chicago's inexhaustible jazz scene. Berman is an impeccable improviser, and his talents do the city's reputation well. (Source: Scott Morrow)

11:00 PM : ALEXANDER VON SCHLIPPENBACH SOLO

Alexander Von Schlippenbach – piano

A rare club solo performance by one of Europe's premier free jazz bandleaders. Schlippenbach started to play piano from the age of 8 and went on to study composition at Cologne under Bernd Alois Zimmermann. At the age of 28 he founded the Globe Unity Orchestra. In 1988, he founded the Berlin Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, a big band that has over the years comprised, among others, Willem Breuker, Paul Lovens, Misha Mengelberg, Evan Parker, Aki Takase and Kenny Wheeler.

In 1994 he was awarded the prestigious Albert Mangelsdorff prize and over the years produced various recordings and worked for German radio channels. In 1999 he recorded the complete works of Thelonious Monk. Schlippenbach's music mixes free and contemporary classical elements, with his slashing solos often the link between the two in his compositions.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH @ ELASTIC
2830 N. Milwaukee Ave. 2nd Floor / \$15 requested donation
www.elasticarts.org / 773-772-3616

9:00 PM : HARNIK/BAUDER/ROEBKE

- Elisabeth Harnik – piano
- Matt Bauder – reeds
- Jason Roebke – bass

A first time meeting between Austrian pianist Elisabeth Harnik, Brooklyn based reedist Matt Bauder and Chicago's Jason Roebke on bass. Separately each musician is emerging as innovators in composition, improvisation and performance.

The diversity of Jason Roebke's intensely physical, audacious, and sparse bass playing will play foil to Harnik's gorgeously loose and freewheeling piano threading. At the center of the cause will be Bauder's innate ability to traverse from jazz influenced improvising to new music conception.

10:00 PM : 2008 FEATURED ARTIST PT 1: JOHN TCHICAI SOLO

John Tchicai – reeds

Saxophonist John Tchicai is best known for his time in New York during the height of the '60s free jazz explosion, but he actually spent the majority of his career advancing the cause of avant-garde jazz in Northern Europe. In the late '50s, Tchicai began making the rounds of the North European jazz scene, which was quick to pick up on the early innovations of the American avant-garde. In 1963, he moved to New York City to immerse himself in the epicenter of free jazz. He hooked up with Archie Shepp and Don Cherry, eventually co-founding the New York Contemporary Five with them; he was also a founding member of the New York Art Quartet with Roswell Rudd and Milford Graves. Tchicai also recorded with Albert Ayler (on New York Eye and Ear Control), the Jazz Composers Guild, and John Lennon (Life With the Lions), and -- most importantly -- appeared on John Coltrane's legendary free jazz landmark *Ascension*. After a whirlwind three years, Tchicai returned to Denmark in 1966 and founded a large workshop ensemble called *Cadentia Nova Danica*, which he led until 1971. Shortly thereafter, he cut back on performing to concentrate on teaching full-time. In 1990, Tchicai received a lifetime grant for jazz performance from the Danish Ministry of Culture; and the following year he relocated to California's Bay Area, where he and his keyboardist wife Margriet founded John Tchicai & the Archetypes and the John Tchicai Unit, which both recorded during the '90s. Since 2001 he has been living near Perpignan in southern France and continues to explore different performing contexts. —All Music Guide

As our featured artist, The Umbrella Music Festival will feature John Tchicai in three different contexts over the course of the weekend: solo, duo and septet.

11:00 PM : BIK-BENT-BRAAM (CHICAGO VERSION)

- Michiel Braam – piano
- Wilbert de Joode – bass
- Michael Vatcher – drums
- Jaimie Branch – trumpet
- James Davis – trumpet
- Jeb Bishop – trombone
- Nick Broste – trombone
- James Falzone – clarinet
- Jason Stein – bass clarinet
- Dave McDonnell – alto saxophone
- Keefe Jackson – tenor saxophone
- Tim Haldeman – tenor saxophone
- Dave Rempis – tenor/baritone saxophone

On November 7th Trio Braam-DeJoode-Vatcher will premiere a very special project: together with ten horn players from Chicago they will form 'Bik Bent Braam Chicago version'.

Bik Bent Braam is Michiel Braam's 13-piece improvising avant-garde big band from the Netherlands. The ensemble performs without a set list - it employs a strategy in which the musicians all provide input, calling out tunes in mid-phrase and deciding tempo and instrumentation on the spot, to generate a new musical direction for the ensemble. It turns each performance into an adventure – even more so with ten top-improvisers from Chicago's vibrant creative music community.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH @ THE HIDEOUT
1354 W. WABANSIA / \$15 COVER / WWW.HIDEOUTCHICAGO.COM / 773-227-4433

9:00 PM : TRZASKA/O'REILLY/WEBER/FUJIWARA

- Mikolaj Trzaska – reeds
- Evan O'Reilly – guitar
- Christian Weber – bass
- Tomas Fujiwara – drums

This first time collaboration hopes to ignite a powerful evening. New York's Evan O'Reilly and Tomas Fujiwara have become increasing co-conspirators in the bustling improvised music scene of the Big Apple. They bring their empathetic abilities to join forces with

the heavy blowing Polish saxophonist Mikolaj Trzaka and the genre bending Swiss bassist Christian Weber. Expect a high-energy improvised blowout.

10:00 PM : 2008 FEATURED ARTIST PT 2: JOHN TCHICAI / HAMID DRAKE

John Tchicai – reeds
Hamid Drake – drums

Umbrella Music Festival's featured artist John Tchicai is presented in duo with one of Chicago's most prominent musicians, Hamid Drake.

By the close of the 1990s, Hamid Drake was widely regarded as one of the busiest percussionists in improvised music. Incorporating Afro-Cuban, Indian, and African percussion instruments and influence, in addition to using the standard trap set, Drake has collaborated extensively with top free jazz improvisers Peter Brotzmann, Fred Anderson, and David Murray, among others. Drake has been a member of the Latin jazz band *Night on Earth*, the Georg Graewe Quartet, the DKV Trio and Peter Brotzmann's Chicago Octet/Tenet. Drake has also worked with trumpeter Don Cherry, Pharaoh Sanders, Mahmoud Gania, bassist William Parker (in a large number of lineups), and has performed a solstice celebration with fellow Chicago percussionist Michael Zerang semiannually since 1991.

11:00 PM : DOUGLAS EWART AND INVENTIONS

- Douglas Ewart – reeds
- Mwata Bowden – reeds
- Jeff Parker – guitar
- Darius Savage – bass
- Dushun Mosley – drums
- Dee Alexander – vocals

A solid multi-instrumentalist, Douglas Ewart's energetic solos on alto sax, flute, bass clarinet and bassoon have been heard in the bands of Fred Anderson, George Lewis, Muhal Richard Abrams, Anthony Braxton and Chico Freeman. Since 1967 Ewart has been a member of The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, and also serves, as it's current co-chairman. He's been featured on several sessions in the '70s,'80s and '90s, which includes an acclaimed duo album with fellow AACM member George Lewis (Black Saint). Ewart's long established project, *Inventions*, will be featured in what will be no less than a lesson in AACM.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH @ THE HUNGRY BRAIN
2319 W. BELMONT / \$15 SUGGESTED DONATION
WWW.EMERGINGIMPROVISERS.ORG / 773-935-2118

9:00 PM : BAKER/WILLIAMS/SANDSTROM/HUNT

- Mars Williams – reeds
- Jim Baker – piano/electronics
- Brian Sandstrom – guitar/bass
- Steve Hunt – drums

This quartet brings together four long time veterans of the Chicago improvised music scene. Although they have collaborated in many projects since the early 80's this high-energy group has honed it's skills playing a weekly Tuesday showcase at the small tavern Hotti Biscotti for several years.

The fruits of their long history together are evident on their release *Extraordinary Popular Delusions* (Okkadisc). Though the hybridization of punk-rock ethos and free-jazz intensity is a hallmark of the Chicago improvised sound, keyboardist Jim Baker, saxophonist Mars Williams, bassist Brian Sandstrom and drummer Steve Hunt have honed their freedoms into a nuanced, dedicated vocabulary.

10:00 PM : TAYLOR HO BYNUM SEXTET

- Taylor Ho Bynum – cornet
- Matt Bauder – reeds
- Nicole Mitchell – flutes
- Evan O'Reilly – guitar
- Mary Halvorson – guitar
- Tomas Fujiwara – drums

Taylor Ho Bynum is a performer on cornet and various brass instruments, composer and bandleader. He presently leads his Trio, his Sextet, the nine-piece ensemble SpiderMonkey Strings, and has developed a body of solo music for cornet and duo work with dancer/choreographer Rachel Bernsen. In addition to leading his own groups, Bynum regularly performs with some of the most innovative figures in creative music, such as Anthony Braxton and Cecil Taylor, and has ongoing collaborations with such artists as Bill Lowe, Jason Kao Hwang, Joe Morris, Miya Masaoka, Stephen Haynes, Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng, Nate Wooley and Tomas Fujiwara.

This concert features the Chicago debut of Taylor Ho Bynum's critically acclaimed sextet.

11:00 PM : 2008 FEATURED ARTIST PT 3: JOHN TCHICAI SEPTET

- John Tchicai – reeds
- Nicole Mitchell – flutes
- Aaron Getsug – baritone saxophone
- Jaimie Branch – trumpet
- Mary Halvorson – guitar
- Josh Abrams – bass
- Mike Reed – drums

The 2008 Umbrella Music festival concludes with a set of music composed by our featured artist, John Tchicai. His compositions have been the basis for such legendary projects as the New York Contemporary Five, New York Art Quartet and the Jazz Composers Guild to name a few. As a noted composer and conceptualist, Tchicai will be joined by some of the rising voices amongst today's improvising community, including Nicole Mitchell, Mary Halvorson and Josh Abrams.

Find more information and updates at www.umbrellamusic.org