

(MERIDIAN GALLERY)

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; **PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Attention !**

The Space Between

Bay Area artists Nicole Reissour, Edward Schocker, Zachary James Watkins

June 10, 2008

8:00 PM

\$10 general; \$5 students/seniors (no one turned away for lack of funds)

Meridian Gallery presents **The Space Between**, an evening of new music featuring Bay Area artists Nicole Reissour, Edward Schocker, and Zachary James Watkins, who will present new works in unusual tunings. Breaking away from traditional Western practice, these composers use alternate tunings systems to explore the space between notes.

March 22, 2008 by Nicole Reissour is a string quartet in four sections, each section exploring the character of a prime limit, the highest prime number used to generate the tuning for a collection of pitches. In order to create this expanding pitch environment the performers take their bows to other instruments (carefully tuned psalteries and wineglasses) as the piece progresses. Featuring Angela Hsu, Marielle Jakobsons, Emily Packard, and Heather Vorwerck.

Nicole Reissour was raised in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She first became interested in microtonality singing improvised duets with her younger sister on car trips and later went on to study tuning theory and composition with Kyle Gann at Bard College. In 2006 she received her M.A. in composition from Mills College, where she studied with Annie Gosfield, Alvin Curran, Fred Frith, and James Tenney. Ms. Reissour has had the pleasure of hearing her music performed by the Presidio Ensemble, the Colorado String Quartet, Quartet San Francisco, Da Capo chamber ensemble, the American Symphony Orchestra, and many other wonderful performers. Her compositions have earned her the Clair B. Schaefer Award and the Paul Merritt Henry Prize. Her recent hour-long work 'Night in August ('99)' was commissioned by the Sonnambutone radio series. <http://www.myspace.com/niccireissour>

Netori 1-4 by Edward Schocker is for two electric guitars with ebow and wah-wah pedal. The guitars are used as drone instruments and to create counterpoints using the overtone series that arises through the drowned tones. Netori is a term used in Japanese Gagaku music. The word literally means "sound catcher" and is a prelude in free rhythm to set the tonality for the music to follow. This piece works much in the same way as a traditional netori, but instead uses the relationships between two different overtone series to set the tonality. Featuring Edward Schocker and Wayne Grim on guitars.

Edward Schocker holds an M.A. in composition from Mills College, where he studied with Pauline Oliveros, Alvin Curran, and independently with Lou Harrison. At Mills, Edward founded The Music For People & Thingamajigs Concert, the only annual event in The Bay Area devoted to music for made/found instruments and alternate tuning systems—now in its tenth year. Edward Schocker's music is a unique mixture of alternate tuning systems and unique instruments, combined with theater/opera. He has collaborated with many dancers, artists and writers to create a unique combination of sound, movement, and text. Enjoying international recognition, Edward's music has been performed in numerous countries throughout the world. <http://www.edwardschocker.com>

continued

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM or by appointment
For further information and visuals contact: Anne Brodzky or Adria Otte
www.meridiangallery.org

For Ava and Noah 2008 by Zachary James Watkins is a new work written for Ava Mendoza and Noah Phillips who are also the performers. *For Ava and Noah 2008* is scored for two electric guitars each with a unique just intonation tuning. The score combines recorded cues, notation and free improvisation.

Zachary James Watkins has studied composition with Janice Giteck, Jarrad Powell, Robin Holcomb and Jovino Santos Neto at Cornish College. In 2006, Zachary received an MFA in Electronic Music and Recording Media from Mills College where he studied with Chris Brown, Fred Frith and Alvin Curran. Zachary has received commissions from clarinetist Beth Fleenor, pianist and composer Tiffany Lin, Cornish College of The Arts, The Microscores Project, The Beam Foundation, Somnubutone Radio Series, the sfSoundGroup and most recently by the Seattle Chamber Players. His piece *Suite for String Quartet* was awarded the Paul Merritt Henry Prize for Composition. Zachary was the recipient of grants awarded by The American Music Center and The Foundation for Contemporary Arts for the 2008 premiere of *Country Western* a multi-media Chamber piece as part of the Meridian Gallery's Composers in Performance Series. Zachary has performed at the 2006 International Computer Music Conference and the 2007 Bent Festival in Los Angeles with his band *The Pink Canoes* and presented new work at the 10th Annual Music For People and Thingamajigs Festival. Zachary was sound designer/composer for the plays "I have loved Strangers" produced by Just Theatre, which was listed as one of the "top ten of 2007" in the East Bay Express and the 8th Annual ReOrient Theatre Festival. His sound art work entitled *Designed Obsolescence*, "spoke as a metaphor for the breakdown of the dream of technology and the myth of our society's permanence," review by Susan Noyes Platt in the Summer 05 issue of ARTLIES. During October of 2006, Zachary was an artist in residence at the Espy Foundation. <http://zacharyjameswatkins.com>