

Christopher Adler

Christopher Adler is a composer, performer and improviser living in San Diego, California. His music draws upon fifteen years of research into the traditional musics of Thailand and Laos and a background in mathematics. He is internationally recognized as a foremost performer of new and traditional music for the khaen, a free-reed mouth organ from Laos and Northeast Thailand. He is the pianist and composer-in-residence with NOISE and co-founder of the soundON Festival of Modern Music, and composer-in-residence of the nief-norf Summer Festival.

Christopher Adler's compositions encompass cross-culturally hybrid forms drawn from contemporary concert music and traditional musics of Thailand and Laos, the application of mathematics to composition, and the integration of improvisation into structured composition. His works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony Center, Tanglewood, Merkin Hall, Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo and at new music festivals and universities worldwide by ensembles including the Silk Road Ensemble, red fish blue fish, Ensemble ACJW, Ensemble 64.8, the nief-norf ensemble, the Van Buren String Quartet, the Pangaea Quartet, pulsoptional, NOISE and the Seattle Creative Orchestra. His percussion quintet *Pines Long Slept in Sunshine* was commissioned by an international consortium of ten percussion ensembles led by the University of Kentucky. In 2006, he was commissioned by Carnegie Hall through The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the Silk Road Project, Inc. to compose *Music for a Royal Palace*, a virtuoso realization for Chinese and Western instruments of a classical Thai composition. He recently completed *Aeneas in the Underworld, Act I*, a virtuoso solo setting of the sixth book of Virgil's *Aeneid* for prepared guitar with Latin oration, premiered by Colin McAllister.

His compositions have been released on the 2008 CD *Ecstatic Volutions in a Neon Haze* (Innova) and the 2004 CD *Epilogue for a Dark Day* (Tzadik), and have been broadcast and webcast internationally on WGBH's Art of the States, WNYC, WQXR's Q2 and BBC-3. His retrospective analysis of his first ten years of cross-cultural composition has been published in John Zorn's *Arcana II: Musicians on Music* (Hips Road, 2007). He is also the composer-in-residence of the annual nief-norf Summer Festival for contemporary percussion music.

Christopher Adler is the world's leading innovator in contemporary concert music for the khaen. He has performed his own compositions and traditional repertoire at Carnegie Hall, the Bang on a Can Marathon, Music at the Anthology, the Cultural Center of Chicago, the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, and at many other universities in the U.S., Thailand and Singapore. With his ongoing project *New Musical Geographies*, he has promoted the instrument by commissioning and recording new works by composers including Sidney Marquez Boquiren, Christopher Burns, Jeff Herriott, and Matthew Welch. His recordings of compositions by David Loeb have been released on Vienna Modern Masters.

As a soloist and as pianist with the San Diego New Music resident ensemble, NOISE, he has appeared at the International Festival of Chihuahua, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Adelphi University, the University of California at San Diego, and the California Institute of the Arts. He has recorded compositions by Derek Keller (Tzadik) and Nathan Hubbard (*Circumvention/Accretions*), and by Stuart Saunders Smith, Christopher Burns, Juan Campoverde Q. and Matthew Burtner for forthcoming releases. In 2007, he co-founded the soundON Festival of Modern Music, presented annually in La Jolla, California. He is one of the only pianists in the world performing Tom Johnson's *Chord Catalogue*. His performances as an improviser may be heard on *Mineralia* (pfMENTUM) and *Pleistocene*, by the Alan Lechusza/Christopher Adler Duo, and on *Transcontinental*, by the Christopher Adler Trio (Nine Winds), and his improvisations on khaen have been released by Artship Recordings and Accretions.

Christopher Adler is currently an Associate Professor at the University of San Diego where he teaches composition, sound art, theory, twentieth-century music, and world music. He received Ph.D. and Master's degrees in composition from Duke University and Bachelor's degrees in music composition and mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He studied composition with Scott Lindroth, Stephen Jaffe, Sidney Corbett, Evan Ziporyn, Thai music with Panya Roongruang, and pipe organ with James David Christie and Haig Mardirosian.

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