

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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Ronen Givony, Wordless Music Founder
Photography by Christopher Owyong

WHITNEY TO PRESENT *WORDLESS AT WHITNEY LIVE*, FOUR FRIDAYS IN JUNE WITH THE WORDLESS MUSIC SERIES, FEATURING THE AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

ACME to perform with The Berg Sans Nipple (June 6), A Sunny Day in Glasgow (June 13), Prefuse 73 (June 20), and Times New Viking (June 27)

WNYC to air four one-hour Wordless Music programs, June 2-5 at 10pm on 93.9 FM

NEW YORK, April 15, 2008 -- **Whitney Live** hosts the **Wordless Music** series each Friday in June at the Whitney Museum of American Art, presenting four shows pairing innovative rock and electronic music with adventurous contemporary classical chamber music. Rock and electronic music by **The Berg Sans Nipple** (June 6), **A Sunny Day in Glasgow** (June 13), **Prefuse 73** (June 20), and **Times New Viking** (June 27) will be matched with chamber music selections by composers **John Adams**, **Jefferson Friedman**, **Ingram Marshall**, **Kevin Volans**, and **Chen Yi**, performed by the American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME).

Leading up to the Wordless at Whitney Live series, New York public radio station WNYC will broadcast four one-hour specials, hosted by Radio Lab's Jad Abumrad, featuring highlights

from past Wordless Music programs, June 2-5, at 10 pm each evening, on 93.9 FM. Abumrad will also serve as host at the Whitney for each Wordless at Whitney Live concert.

At the Whitney's invitation, Wordless Music selected four groups for the series -- with styles ranging from lo-fi indie rock to "shoegaze", electronica, and glitch-hop -- to play alongside musicians from the **American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)**. The repertoire for ACME's performances was carefully tailored for each concert, drawing inspiration from the featured band's sonic and musical influences.

"Beyond just presenting amazing music (which oh my god it does!), Wordless Music actually *says* something about music that's important to us and our audience," said WNYC's Jad Abumrad. "It strikes a certain attitude: that if you're curious, generous, discerning...maybe a little idealistic...you shouldn't *care* about the borders between musical genres because they don't really matter."

The complete schedule follows below. Events take place in the Whitney's indoor/outdoor Lower Gallery and are free with pay-what-you-wish admission to the museum on Friday evenings from 6 to 9 pm. Each concert is at 7 pm.

Wordless and the Whitney

The Wordless Music Series is devoted to the idea that the sound worlds of classical and contemporary instrumental music share more in common than conventional thinking might suggest. Wordless Music concerts create a distinctive experience for curious music fans eager to explore similarities between musical genres rarely heard side-by-side.

This collaboration between Whitney Live, the Whitney Museum's ongoing performance series, and Wordless Music founder Ronen Givony continues the Museum's history of showcasing important voices in contemporary music of all forms. Whitney Live represents the Whitney's abiding commitment to music by representing new trends, reinterpreting American traditions, and resonating with the Whitney's exhibitions and permanent collection. In the 1960's and '70's, the Whitney presented artists such as Ornette Coleman, Sonny Rollins, Cecil Taylor, Aaron Copland, Virgil Thomson, Steve Reich, John Cage, Morton Feldman, Duke Ellington, Meredith Monk, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, and included premieres of some of these composers' most groundbreaking work. Since 2005 Whitney Live has featured performances by So Percussion, Matmos, Alarm Will Sound, Text of Light,

Nico Muhly, The Books, DJ Scientific, Dirty Projectors, Lucky Dragons, J.G. Thirlwell, Marissa Nadler, Dan Deacon, and Tristan Perich. For more information about Wordless Music, visit wordlessmusic.org.

About American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)

The American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME) is dedicated to the performance of contemporary masterworks of the 20th and 21st centuries. With Artistic Director and cellist Clarice Jensen at the helm, ACME programs are both avant-garde and archetypal and the dynamic ensemble's concerts are a unique blend of intelligent performance and passionate music-making. ACME is comprised of virtuosic musicians who excel at the performance of chamber music as well as solo repertoire and are enthusiastic advocates for new music. *Time Out New York* reports, "ACME was causing quite a stir in the crowded New York new-music scene . . . polished and playful, its programs are a broad-minded mix of rigor and eclecticism." For more information, visit ACMEmusic.org.

Wordless on WNYC

In anticipation of Wordless at Whitney Live, WNYC will broadcast four one-hour specials culled from the highlights of its recordings of the first season. Radio Lab's Jad Abumrad hosts performances by artists including Jonny Greenwood, Beirut, Hauschka, John Adams, Sigur Rós, and Do Make Say Think, illuminating each piece with surprising background information and lively conversation. The programs will air evenings at 10pm on WNYC, 93.9 FM, from Monday, June 2 through Thursday, June 5. Archives of the original concerts, each unedited and in its entirety, can currently be found online at wnyc.org/wordless.

WORDLESS AT WHITNEY LIVE: Detailed Schedule

June 6 at 7 pm:

The Berg Sans Nipple & ACME

Franco-American duo **The Berg Sans Nipple** are Lori Sean Berg and Shane Aspegren, two musicians both best known as drummers, weaving dreamy electronica, percussion-heavy afro-beats, layers of feedback, pop melodies and dub blankets, creating a cohesive, beautifully bizarre collage. **ACME** performs Kevin Volans's *White Man Sleeps* and John Adams's *Book of Alleged Dances*. More information at bergsansnipple.com.

June 13 at 7 pm:

A Sunny Day in Glasgow & ACME

Philadelphia brother/sisters combo **A Sunny Day in Glasgow** adds lush female vocals to dance-worthy rhythms, making surreal, dreamy pop music. **ACME** performs Ingram Marshall's *Entrada* and John Adams's *Shaker Loops*. More at asunnydayinglasgow.com.

June 20 at 7 pm:

Prefuse 73 & ACME

Legendary glitch-hop maven Scott Herren, known most often as **Prefuse 73**, brings his beat-centric, genre-splicing style to the Whitney. **ACME** performs Chen Yi's *Sound of Five* and Kevin Volans's *She Who Sleeps*. More at prefuse73.com.

June 27 at 7 pm:

Times New Viking & ACME

Times New Viking is a guitar, drums, keyboards trio based out of Columbus, Ohio, who play punk-infused indie-rock with messy boy-girl vocals and a lo-fi sound. **ACME** performs selections from Jefferson Friedman's string quartets. More at myspace.com/timesnewviking.

Museum Admission is pay-what-you-wish during Whitney After Hours, Fridays from 6–9 pm. Space is limited; seating and admission for Whitney Live is on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not accepted. Funding for Whitney Live is provided by the Whitney Live Producers.

For press reservations, contact the press office at 212-570-3633 or email pressoffice@whitney.org.

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About The Whitney Museum

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the

Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:

Demuth's Late Paintings of Lancaster	Through April 27, 2008
2008 Whitney Biennial	Through June 1, 2008
Polaroids: Mapplethorpe	May 3-September 7, 2008
Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe	June 26-September 21, 2008
Paul McCarthy: Three Installations, Two Films	June 26-October 12, 2008
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	October 16, 2008-February 15, 2009
William Eggleston	November 7, 2008-January 25, 2009

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$15 for adults; Members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students are admitted free. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6-9 pm. For information, please call 212-570-3600 or visit www.whitney.org.