

THE PAUL DRESHER ENSEMBLE'S *DOUBLE DUO*

The Paul Dresher Ensemble is excited to announce the formation of the Double Duo—a quartet of contemporary music virtuosos performing a program of challenging and innovative contemporary acoustic, electro-acoustic and invented instrument compositions.

The Double Duo's continually evolving repertory focuses on works by Paul Dresher along with compositions by acclaimed contemporary composers such as Martin Bresnick, Don Byron and John Adams. The group features Dresher performing on electric guitar and his remarkable 15 foot-long invented stringed instrument, the Quadrachord, long-time Ensemble percussionist Joel Davel on the miraculous Marimba Lumina, virtuoso violinist Karen Bentley Pollick and pianist Lisa Moore, the noted contemporary music soloist and founding and long-time member of the Bang on A Can All Stars.

Performing in various combinations of solo, duo, trio and quartet, the Double Duo's repertory moves from entirely acoustic works such as John Adams' Road Movies or Martin Bresnick's Bird As Prophet, through hybrid electro-acoustic works like Dresher's gorgeous Chorale Times Two (featuring violinist Karen Bentley Pollick and Dresher on electric guitar) to the invented instrument duo Glimpsed From Afar (on which Dresher and Davel were received like rock stars when they recently performed the work twice with the Los Angeles Philharmonic).

ABOUT THE INVENTED INSTRUMENTS

The Quadrachord

The Quadrachord has a total string length of 160 inches, four strings of differing gauges but of equal length and an electric bass pick-up next to each of the two bridges. The instrument can be plucked like a guitar, bowed like cello, played like a slide guitar, prepared like a piano and drummed on like a percussion instrument. Because of the extremely long string length (relative to our conventional bowed and plucked instruments), and very low open string/fundamental pitches, the instrument is capable of easily and accurately playing the harmonic series up to the 24th partial and higher. Thus it is a remarkable tool for exploring alternative tuning systems based on the harmonic series.

In live performance, the instrument is typically used in conjunction with live digital looping and various signal processing devices (most importantly a programmable graphic equalizer) that together allow Dresher and Davel to build up complex multi-track layers, each of which is defined by a distinct timbre and spectral characteristics

The Marimba Lumina

A recent instrument design by synthesizer pioneer Don Buchla in collaboration with Joel Davel and Mark Goldstein, Marimba Lumina is a sophisticated electronic instrument that has more expressive control than a typical electronic keyboard. Modeled somewhat after its acoustic namesake, it is a dynamically sensitive electronic mallet controller that brings an extended vocabulary and range of expression to the mallet instrument family. Marimba Lumina's playing surface includes a traditionally arrayed set of electronic bars. Each bar is made up of two overlapping antennas that receive proximity information from each of the four mallets. This allows the Marimba Lumina to respond to new performance variables such as position along the length of each bars. In addition, each mallet is tuned to a unique frequency which allows one to program different instrumental responses for each mallet. This all augments the potential for expressive control with easily implemented pitch, volume and timbre modulation.