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### Kelly Strayhorn Theater announces details for Hear/Now: Festival of New Sound

Festival includes more than 80 musicians, 30 composers, and 3 venues during  
this two-day event

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PITTSBURGH—Kelly Strayhorn Theater, in collaboration with Alia Musica, presents Hear/Now: Festival of New Sound, a celebration of music and sound arts that ranges from the traditional to the obscure.

On Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14, this two-day festival brings together the most noteworthy acts in the constantly evolving genre of new music in an intimate and up-close setting. Some of the nation's best and most talented musicians will perform the full spectrum of new music: from ensembles to soloists and electronic to instrumental.

Grammy Award-winning flutist Tim Munro, NYC-based contemporary composer DJ Spooky, acclaimed concert pianist Conor Hanick, experimental instrumentalist and vocalist Pamela Z alongside Alia Musica, Dave Eggar, ELCO, Host Skull, and many others will be featured.

Artists will play select works by these accomplished and noteworthy national/international composers: Edgar Varese, Morton Feldman, John Cage, Mathew Rosenblum (PGH), George Tsontakis, Philip Glass, and Eric Moe (PGH) among others. Featured local composers are: Mark Fromm, Federico Garcia, Sean Newkom, and John Arrigo-Nelson.

Performances will take place at three venues: Kelly Strayhorn Theater, East Liberty Presbyterian Church and Shadow Lounge, located near the theater in East Liberty.

Ticket information: Each program is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Festival passes are \$35 for students and artists and \$50 for the general public.

#### FESTIVAL PROGRAM

##### Friday, April 13

###### Program A @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater

6–7 pm: Mixer  
7–7:30 pm: CAPA Antithesis  
7:30–8 pm: Dave Eggar

Still in high school, the students in CAPA's new music ensemble, Antithesis, are kicking off the Hear/Now festival. The future of music lies with a new generation of musicians who explore and expand





the role of sound in society.

Locally hailed as the music director for Attack Theater, Dave Eggar is a Grammy nominated cellist and pianist who has had critical acclaim all over the world. He's graced the stage with some of the biggest names in the music business such as Beyonce, Roberta Flack, Hannah Montana, Fall Out Boy, Carly Simon, Coldplay, Pearl Jam, and Josh Groban, among many others. Visit Eggar's [website](#).

#### Program B @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater

8–9 pm: Alia Musica

9–10 pm: Tim Munro

Early avant-garde, new sounds, and atypical chamber combinations stretch the capabilities of instruments, and present music that is anything but traditional.

Composer Collective, Alia Musica premieres *Gravity Plus*, a work for flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello by award winning American composer, George Tsontakis, winner of Ives Living award, given every three years by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Pittsburgh based composer John Arrigo-Nelson, joins Alia Musica for the premiere of his *Balanced on Two Points* —a piece for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and percussion. Alia Musica's first performance of Varèse's 90-year-old classic *Octandre* features its full complement of wind and brass. The piece is still a monument of modernistic music almost a century after it was written.

A native of Brisbane, Australia, Grammy-winning "flute phenom" Tim Munro makes his Pittsburgh solo debut. Acclaimed flutist of the Chicago-based sextet eighth blackbird, Munro's kaleidoscopic performance amazes audiences with a flute that sings, speaks, whirls, growls, wheezes, and chirps.

Munro's performances are like a whirlwind of genre-defying music. John Cage's aria for solo voice pushes Munro in his chaotic, hysterical style to sing in five languages and ten different vocal styles. Steve Reich's Vermont Counterpoint is a funky, thrilling tour-de-force. Read more [here](#).

#### Program C @ Shadow Lounge

10–10:30 pm: Ben Opie Trio

10:30–11:30 pm: Pamela Z

11:30 pm–2:00 am: Herman Pearl

The festival of new sound moves over the Shadow Lounge for an intimate show that begins with Ben Opie & the Book Exchange and Pamela Z, and that ends with danceable noise by local party starter, DJ Soy Sos.

Pittsburgh-based saxophonist Ben Opie & The Book Exchange kicks it off with [a program of original compositions and contemporary interpretations of jazz classics by Billy Strayhorn, Mary Lou Williams, and Sonny Clark.

Pamela Z, based in San Francisco, creates solo works combining a variety of vocal techniques, electronic processing, gesture activated MIDI controllers, and video. Her large-scale multimedia works have been presented at venues including Theater Artaud and ODC in San Francisco, and The Kitchen in New York. More information at Pamela's website [here](#).

DJ Soy Sos—audio engineer, producer, and DJ extraordinaire—closes the night with an organically electronic, dubbed out spinning session. Inspired by world sound, hip-hop, and dance hall/reggae, Soy Sos makes it impossible not to dance to his artfully curated playlists. Read and listen [online](#).

## Saturday, April 14

#### Program D @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater

3:30–4:15 pm: Christopher McGlumphy

4:15–5:00 pm: Host Skull, OvreArts w/ Pillow Project, ELCO

This program brings together some of Pittsburgh's fresh talent on new music scene, fusing, music, video, dance, and a fleeting composition that you can only hear once.



Composer/performer Christopher McGlumphy performs new music for viola da gamba, electric guitar, and electronics against the backdrop of silent films from the 1920s including legendary magic tricks from Houdini, Cardini, and more. Film clips include cinematic achievements from the Lumière brothers documenting life in France at the turn of the 20th century and rare footage of Ham the Astrochimp, the first pilot sent into space. Visit McGlumphy's website [here](#).

Host Skull is a collective of musicians that make music, art installations, videos, and other sound events. Like architects of noise, the band uses a modular approach to their compositions where all performers contribute their own piece of the whole—resulting in a beyond interesting arrangement of music, visuals, and movement.

For this festival, Host Skull performs *MODULES: Utopia/No Place*, which explores utopian ideas and investigates the role that systems play in determining the outcome of a situation. Click [here](#) for Host Skull online.

OvreArts, performing with dance ensemble The Pillow Project, is an ambitious group of young musicians who are at the forefront of contemporary music in Pittsburgh. Their piece, *Imprompt2 + 1*, is purely improvised music. Mr. Luke Mayernik, pianist and two time international improvisation award winner, will use the aesthetics of the moment to decide every aspect of what the piece will be, and like a Tibetan sand mandala, the work will disappear into the unknown just after it is created. In that way, *Imprompt2 + 1* is not a “work” but an in-the-moment-experience. Visit [OvreArts.org](#) and [PillowProject.org](#).

ELCO, a past artist in residence at KST, is known for mashing up post rock with cutting-edge, contemporary classical music. Their festival performance collides classical instruments with 80s new wave during their rendition of The Cure's *Plainsong*, from the band's most commercially successful and timeless album, *Disintegration*. ELCO also performs *Madame Press Died Last Week at Ninety* by Morton Feldman, an experimental composer and pioneer of indeterminate music. Visit the [ELCO website](#).

#### Program E @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater

4–5:15 pm: Mixer

5:15–6 pm: Freya String Quartet (free)

6–6:15 pm: Eric Moe

6:15–6:30 pm: Michael Johnsen

6:30–7:30 pm: Conor Hanick

Freya String Quartet, an innovative string quartet, performs legendary composer Philip Glass' *String Quartet No. 3* and *Mishima*, as well as a piece by Pittsburgh composer Sean Neukom, *At 7.0*. [Freya online](#).

Michael Johnsen is a bold electronic musician who makes outsider sounds through jumbled wires, old AM antennae, and other unconventional mediums. His work reveals a brilliant mind that confronts phenomena with relatively, and captures poetry in each performance. For the festival, Johnsen performs an improvisation using a full set up of complex gadgets and acoustic instruments.

Eric Moe, one of six winners of the 2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award at the University of Pittsburgh, has been variously described as “maximal minimalism” and “music of winning exuberance”. The New York Times says recently that Moe “subversively inscribe[s] classical music into pop culture”. Moe is currently the director of the Music on the Edge series through the University of Pittsburgh. Eric Moe is online [here](#).

Described by the New York Times as “brilliant” and “colorful,” Conor Hanick is a force the Pittsburgh new music scene and a performer with Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. Conor Hanick performs solo piano works by Charles Wuorinen, Bagatelle and Morton Feldman, Palais de Mari. More [online](#).

#### Program F @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater

8:00–8:15 pm: Lisa Harris/Alisha Wormsley

8:15–9:15 pm: DJ Spooky

10 pm–midnight: Closing Party



Alisha Wormsley and Lisa E. Harris present a new opera film with rich musical narration and striking art direction. The film, about a young girl wondering what is really going on in the hood as she combs Third Ward Texas for her lost dog, touches on current urban issues such as gentrification, the affects of new trains on an area, and abduction. More info [here](#).

International artist, Paul D. Miller (a.k.a DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid) presents a live music concert based on material from his recent Book of Ice project, which explores the “archive” of Antarctic history. From the molecular structure of ice to the composition of atmospheric pollutants as they color the night skies, the material for Miller’s compositions, performed live with a string ensemble, will explore the linkages between the physical realm of beautiful remote places like the ice fields of Antarctica, and the ethereal realms of digital media portraits of a rapidly changing world.

Inspired as much by the first compositions for turntables written by John Cage’s 1939 *Imaginary Landscape* and Luigi Russolo’s 1915 *Arte de Rumori* as by Debussy and Ravel’s string quartet works, Miller references turntablism and contemporary composition through the realm of sampling to create new works that reflect the radical climate changes facing us all in the beginnings of the 21st century. More at [DJSpooky.com](#).

For information and to purchase tickets, visit our [website](#).

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#### [About the Kelly Strayhorn Theater](#)

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh’s East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professionally equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater’s Gallery of Stars. The building, opened in 1919, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.