

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

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Experiments in the Studio: an MCDC new music series
Featuring Curtis Bahn, Keiko Uenishi, and Alex Waterman
Monday, December 1 at 8:30 PM, Merce Cunningham Studio

New York, NY—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) presents the second concert in its new season of *Experiments in the Studio* on Monday, December 1 at 8:30 PM, at the Merce Cunningham Studio. Building off of a stunning season premiere with vocalist Joan La Barbara, the series resumes with a concert showcasing the work of three diverse composers/performers: Curtis Bahn, Keiko Uenishi, and Alex Waterman. Solo performances and collective improvisation will feature Bahn's computer-extended Sitar and Dilruba (a bowed Indian cello-like instrument) alongside Uenishi's electronically-generated sound environments and Waterman's digitally-rendered stroh violin, cello, and mixed media. The three musicians will come together with longtime MCDC music director Takehisa Kosugi on December 6 and 7 to perform for the fifth *Beacon Event*, part of MCDC's *Hudson Valley Project* residency at Dia:Beacon. For a separate press release regarding *Beacon Events* and additional *Hudson Valley Project* residency activities, please contact jordan@merce.org.

All concerts in the series are free, no reservations required. Merce Cunningham Studio is located at 55 Bethune Street on the 11th floor. Recent concerts have been filled to capacity; to arrange a press seat in advance, please contact Jordan Elkind at 212.255.8240 x19 or jordan@merce.org.

Curtis Bahn is a composer and improviser who specializes in live interactive electronic performance. Currently he is Associate Professor of Computer Music Composition/ Performance, and Director of the Integrated Electronic Arts (iEAR) Studios at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy New York. He received his Ph.D. in music composition from Princeton University. His music has been presented internationally at venues including Lincoln Center, India International Centre - Delhi, Sadler's Wells - London, Palais Garnier - Paris, Grand Theatre de la Ville - Luxembourg, as well as numerous festivals, academic conferences and small clubs. Curtis was the composer for a residency project entitled "Motione," in interactive dance and graphics with Choreographer Trisha Brown and Visual Artists Paul Kaiser, Marc Downey and Shelly Eshkar at the Arizona State University Arts Media and Engineering Program. He released a solo recording of live electronic performance on his extended string bass entitled "R!g," available on the EMF label, a duo recording entitled "./swank" with Dan Trueman on the cycling 74 label, and a DVD with Pauline Oliveros and Tomie Hahn on the Deep Listening label. Currently Curtis is studying Indian music with the American Bansuri virtuoso and composer Steve Gorn, and applying his studies to both traditional Hindustani musical performance, and extended performance interfaces for the Dilruba and the Sitar.

Keiko Uenishi (aka o.blaat) is a Brooklyn-based sound activist, social composer, and core member of SHARE, known for her works formed through experiments in restructuring and analyzing one's relationship with sounds in sociological, cultural, and/or psychological environments. Her installations include: "Aboard: Phillip2" for "six sites for sound" exhibitions in London, UK (2005), "J'ai un secret merveilleux: Midas" for City Sonic Festival 2006, Mons, Belgium, and the upcoming "The

ROOM/SOUNDLEAK" for Medien Kultur Haus, Wels, Austria with funding from 'Linz09 - European Capital of Culture' in spring 2009. She also runs an on-going open project "Broadway Dreams" (collaborative 'blink media documentation' on local businesses and sidewalks, utilizing web 2.0), featured in Conflux Festival 2008, NYC, and a participatory composition "Border Game" for Fronte[r]as2 festival at a border of Spain and Portugal to be premiered in autumn 2009. Uenishi has collaborated with numerous artists including: Klaus Filip, Toshio Kajiwara, Ikue Mori, Kaffe Matthews, Marina Rosenfeld, Steinbrüchel, DJ Olive, Eyvind Kang, Sachiko M, Aki Onda, Adriana Să, Anthony Coleman, 242.pilots, Nobukazu Takemura, Ryuichi Sakamoto, among others.

Alex Waterman is a founding member of the Plus Minus Ensemble, based in Brussels and London, specializing in avant-garde and experimental music. In New York he performs with the Either/Or Ensemble. Alex has worked with musicians such as Robert Ashley, Richard Barrett, Helmut Lachenmann, Keith Rowe, Marina Rosenfeld, Anthony Coleman, Elliot Sharp, Ned Rothenberg, Gerry Hemingway, David Watson, Chris Mann, Alison Knowles, Thomas Meadowcroft, and Michael Finnissy. Waterman has made music for numerous European ballet and modern dance companies including Freiburg Ballet/Pretty Ugly, Scapino Ballet, Nederland Dans Theater III, and others. His duo projects with the dancer Michael Schumacher have toured in Switzerland, Italy, Holland, the Opera of Monaco and most recently in all 5 boroughs of New York in a Joyce Theater production in association with the City Parks Foundation in July of 2008. In 2007 Alex curated two exhibitions in New York, one on experimental music and poetics: Agapê (June 2-July 28th, 2007) at Miguel Abreu Gallery; and the other on graphic notation, Between Thought and Sound: Graphic Notation in Contemporary Music (September 7-October 20, 2007) at The Kitchen in Chelsea. Alex is presently working on his PhD in musicology at NYU as well as writing a book about the composer Robert Ashley with the designer and writer Will Holder. Alex participated in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. Alex Waterman and Beatrice Gibson's film, A Necessary Music, narrated by Robert Ashley and with original music by Waterman, premiered at the Whitney Museum ISP show and will be shown in galleries and museums in the US and Europe this fall including the Rotterdam Film Festival and St. Louis Museum of Art.

Experiments in the Studio celebrates Merce Cunningham's commitment to commissioning more new music by American composers than any other single choreographer, and the historic relationship between Merce Cunningham and John Cage, Founding Music Director of MDCDC. The composer/performers in this series represent a vibrant history of avant-garde music and multiple generations of contemporary composers working and performing together, from the 1950s through today.

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