

About The Nature of Music: Since the music of Haydn, Dvořák, and Messiaen, classical composers have been using the sounds of the natural world as source material. With the advent of reel-to-reel tape recorders that inspired composers of the *musique concrète* movement, we could hear sounds slowed down or sped up to bring new ears to common everyday sources. Along the way, John Cage proposed in 1952, with *4'33"*, a silent piece for piano that a listener could create their own concert by simply listening to ambient sounds without altering them – recognizing that they too have form and content. With the advent of personal recording equipment like the cassette recorder, environmental sounds have been recorded, sampled, and integrated into composed and improvised music. In 1970, Charles Amirkhanian and Richard Friedman launched the World Ear Project at KPFA in Berkeley. They invited people from around the world to record continuous sound for 15-minutes or longer without alteration. The result was a long-running program in which listeners driving across the Bay Bridge would be mystified by long segments of sounds of a street market in India or frogs and crickets at night in Cayucos, California.

About Other Minds: Other Minds is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms through concerts, workshops, and conferences that bring together artists and audiences of diverse traditions, generations, and cultural backgrounds. By fostering cross-cultural exchange and creative dialogue, and by encouraging exploration of areas in new music seldom touched upon by mainstream music institutions, Other Minds is committed to expanding and reshaping the definition of what constitutes "serious music."

About Dresher Ensemble Studio: New Performance Traditions – created by the Paul Dresher Ensemble – is a hub for incubating multi-disciplinary arts projects from conception and production through performance, recording, and broadcast. We are dedicated to the creation of risk-taking and challenging performing artworks and to supporting the artists that conceive them to engender a more equitable, inclusive, and creative community.

On the Cover: Image from the cover of the Voyager Golden Records, phonograph records that were included aboard both Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977. They contain sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth, and are intended for any intelligent extraterrestrial life form, or for future humans, who may find them.

UPCOMING OTHER MINDS EVENTS

Latitudes 19:

Joel St. Julien / CGRSM / Seasons

Saturday, July 22, 2023 @ 7:30 PM

St John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1661 15th St., San Francisco, CA

Other Minds Festival 27

Wednesday–Saturday, November 15–18, 2023

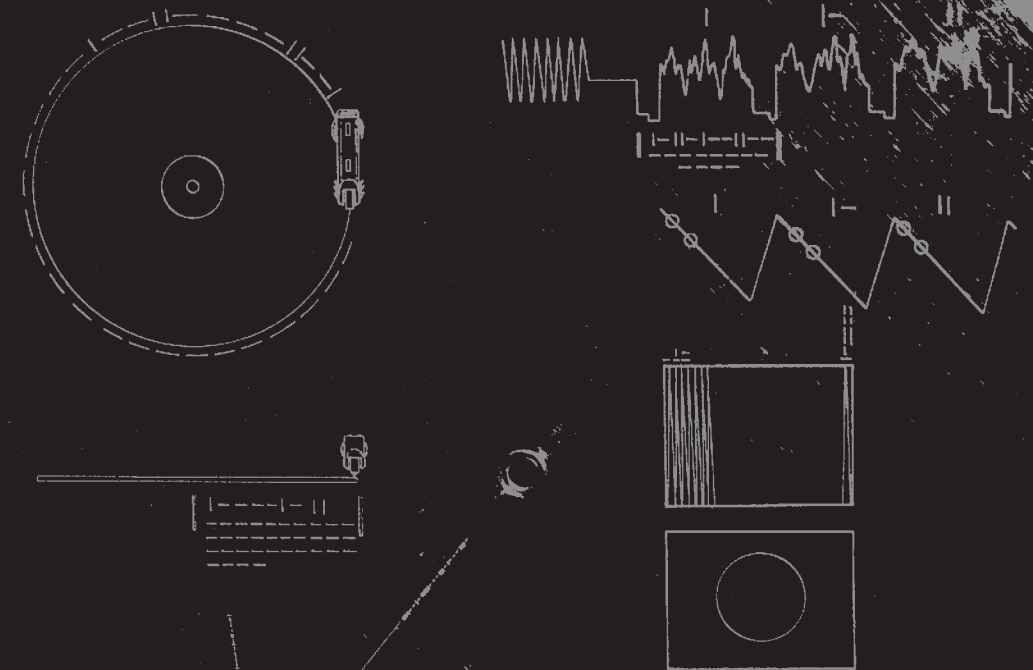
Taube Atrium Theater, San Francisco

Featuring Ellen Arkbro with Will Guthrie, Craig Taborn, Morton Subotnick with Lillevan, Linda Bouchard, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Artur Avanesov, Carl Stone, Eivind Buene, Bora Yoon with Joshue Ott, and Neil Rolnick performed by Geoffrey Burleson

More information online at otherminds.org



OTHER MINDS
REVELATIONARY NEW MUSIC



Other Minds® presents

THE NATURE OF MUSIC

Composer

WENDY REID

live performance and conversation
with Charles Amirkhanian

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 7:30pm

Dresher Ensemble Studio

2201 Poplar Street

Oakland, CA 94607

Other Minds® presents
THE NATURE OF MUSIC



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PROGRAM NOTES

TREE PIECES: THE BIRD COLLECTION

Composer Wendy Reid will discuss and perform her ongoing set of musical processes based on nature, *Tree Pieces*, with a particular focus on the bird collection: five works ranging in date from an orchestrated bird cage music box composed in 1975, *twittering machine*, to her second site-specific work *ambient bird 433* composed in 2019.

This expansive collection shows a temporal progression of what Reid refers to as “freeing the birds:”

She will outline how each of these works discussed progress from orchestrating a music box bird to using live recorded bird sounds, a domesticated bird, and finally performances with wild birds.

She will also discuss the evolution of her scoring techniques across these selected works, from traditional scores to spatially representative scoring, including improvisation, and ambient notations.

bird collection (1975-2019):

twittering machine from *klee pieces* (1975-1980): orchestrated bird cage music box

gungles (1980): recorded bird cage music box with yellow bird (score for the film *On The Track*)

tree piece #21 (1984+): recorded bird with violin and percussion

lulu variations (2008+): live bird as composer/performer

ambient bird 433 (2019+): site-specific; bird composer/performer, wild birds (ambient)

In covering the processes and structures of these works, Reid will also display her unique approach to musical notation, the visually skeletal “tree scores” that vary in height from 17 inches to 6 feet. These art objects serve as visual representations of her musical ideas.

To finish her talk, Reid will discuss the most wonderful musical relationship she has with her avian companion, Lulu, who she considers a co-composer of her recent composition.

The program will conclude with a live performance followed by a short Q&A.

ambient bird - west oakland (2023) for African gray parrot and open ensemble.

The Bird Ensemble:

Lulu, African grey parrot

Wendy Reid, violin

Krys Bobrowski, glisglas

Aurora Josephson, voice

Ron Heglin, flutes, tuba

Kanoko Nishi-Smith, koto

David Samas, percussion



LULU, PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Tonight's program was made possible in part by a gift from Barbara Bessey.

BIOGRAPHY

Over the past 30 years, Wendy Reid has composed an ongoing set of musical processes based on nature, *Tree Pieces*, ranging from electro-acoustic chamber compositions to larger works for chamber orchestra and open ensembles in site-specific environments.

The processes attempt to reflect the inter-connection of all things (including ourselves) in nature. In performance, an attempt is made at a spontaneous unforced and unblocked growing of sound and silence in which emphasis is placed on formation rather than pre-established form, as in the building and shaping of cell-like units in living processes.

The *Tree Pieces* have been performed and broadcast throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia by the Abel-Steinberg-Winant Trio, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Kronos Quartet, Other Minds Festival 19, Mills Performing Group, Mills Contemporary Performance Ensemble (Steed Cowart), the New Music Works Ensemble (Phil Collins), the San Francisco String Quartet (Nathan Rubin), Ensemble Klee, Ruffled Feathers, Brassiosaurus, Tree Ensemble, sfSOUND with the bird ensemble, and others.

Reid produced 'New Music with Birds, Frogs, and Other Creatures' sponsored by the Oakland Museum and the San Francisco Art Institute. Since 1990, she has taught music composition at Mills College and violin at Holy Names University PMD. She currently teaches at her studio in Berkeley.