



November 9

Sunday

2PM

Modern Alchemy

Wayne Horvitz Gravitas Quartet

Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor
(Ticket includes admittance to the museum galleries)

"Horvitz and his players have shown that 'improvised' or 'new' music can be utterly lovely to listen to."

—AllMusic.com

A supremely versatile musician with a half-dozen projects going at any particular time, pianist/keyboardist Wayne Horvitz explores avant-chamber jazz spaces with a similarly flexible cast in the Gravitas Quartet. Featuring Vancouver cellist Peggy Lee, Los Angeles bassoonist Sara Schoenbeck and Denver trumpeter Ron Miles, the group released a beautifully textured 2006 album, *Way Out East*, that captures its singular mix of new music, jazz and improvised composition.

Horvitz started his career as an avant-garde jazz-obsessed student at U.C. Santa Cruz in the mid-1970s. Before the end of the decade he made the move to New York City, where he quickly gained recognition as an adventurous improviser at a time when the Downtown scene was rife with experimentation. He formed a particularly tight bond with guitarist Bill Frisell, a musical relationship that only deepened when both musicians moved to Seattle in the late '80s.

Since settling in Washington, Horvitz has become even more prolific as a composer, player, and bandleader. His work has served as a muse for creative giants in other fields, such as choreographer Paul Taylor, whose 1992 collaboration with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Company, "OZ," was set to 11 Horvitz compositions. More recently, his string quartet "Mountain Language" premiered in Vienna. A restless bandleader, Horvitz has assembled several remarkable ensembles, including the rock-infused combos Pigpen, Zony Mash, and Ponga. The acoustic Gravitas Quartet, an improvisational powerhouse that blurs distinctions between folk, jazz and classical music, explores Horvitz's most spacious and finely textured settings.

WAYNE HORVITZ GRAVITAS QUARTET

Wayne Horvitz piano
Peggy Lee cello
Ron Miles cornet
Sara Schoenbeck bassoon



November 9

Sunday

3 & 7PM

Ukelele Phenom

Jake Shimabukuro

3PM Family Matinee: This shorter discount-priced matinee—designed especially for young attention spans—draws on the same repertoire as the evening show.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

"Taking the ukulele to places it's never been before"

—San Francisco Chronicle

Hawaiian-born Jake Shimabukuro has transformed the four-string ukulele into an infinitely pliable musical vehicle, capable of generating everything from crunching, Hendrix-influenced rock to sensuously swinging jazz. Rocking back and forth on his heels, his wrist moving at a hummingbird blur, Shimabukuro coaxes an impossibly big sound out of the little instrument as he plays a mix of lyrical originals, pop tunes ("Here, There and Everywhere") and classic ballads ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow").

Combining ingenuous boyish charm with the heart of an intrepid musical explorer, Shimabukuro has been riding a Pacific Rim wave since 2002, when he signed with Sony's Epic Records International and earned a huge Japanese following through more than two dozen tours of the country. He became a hometown hero when his first album, *Sunday Morning*, won Instrumental Album of the Year at the 2003 Na Hoku Hanohano Awards (Hawaii's Grammy), where he was also named Favorite Entertainer of the Year, honors he repeated in 2004 with his second album *Cross-current*. But nothing spread his name faster than his blazing version of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," which became a YouTube sensation.

Banjo master Bela Fleck cemented the renegade ukulele star's status in the unofficial but tight-knit confederation of maverick string players when he asked Shimabukuro to record on the Flecktones' album *Little Worlds*, and then invited him to tour with the band as an opening act. While Shimabukuro doesn't describe himself as a jazz musician, he's an incisive improviser perfectly comfortable reharmonizing American Songbook standards.

JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Jake Shimabukuro ukulele