

Conference Announcement

The Sound of Resistance
Improvising Agency Conference 2017

Thursday, June 1, 2017, 9am-5:30pm

Maison Française (Buell Hall) East Gallery, 515 W 116th St, New York NY 10027

Columbia University, New York, NY

Featured Speakers: Fred Moten (keynote), Ingrid Monson, Benjamin Piekut, Fumi Okiji, Adam Zanolini

Pre-Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/n6o4ke4>

Event Info: <http://www.artsforart.org/vf22conference.html>

The history of black improvised music brims with parables of resistance. Time and time again, in the face of oppression, artists and improvisers have raised their voices in sonorous defiance. What does this legacy mean at this moment, in 2017, as artists and citizens face new incarnations of old demons?

On June 1, Arts for Art, in collaboration with Columbia University, and the University of Pittsburgh, will convene its second one-day symposium of scholars, artists, and scholar-artists to address these and related issues. Central themes will include:

- The role of radical art in modern resistance movements
- Musical responses to and resonances of Black Lives Matter
- Improvised music's long tradition of protest
- International networks of artistic activism
- Waging peace and cultivating shared humanity

The conference will feature a keynote address by poet and scholar Fred Moten, along with presentations by Ingrid Monson, Benjamin Piekut, Fumi Okiji, and Adam Zanolini. It will also include a roundtable of artists and improvisers speaking on activism and social justice. A full schedule is printed below.

This conference is free and open to the public, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. We invite all interested artists, scholars, students, and creative-music fans to join us in these vital conversations.

Organizing Committee: Scott Currie (University of Minnesota), Brent Hayes Edwards (Columbia University), Michael Heller (University of Pittsburgh), Fred Moten (University of California, Riverside), Patricia Nicholson Parker (Arts for Art)

Sponsored by: Arts for Art, Inc., Columbia University Center for Jazz Studies, Columbia University Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, University of Pittsburgh Jazz Studies Program

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FULL SCHEDULE

9am Breakfast

9:25 Opening Remarks: Michael Heller (University of Pittsburgh)

Speaker Panel #1 (Brent Hayes Edwards, Moderator)

9:30 Adam Zanolini (CUNY Graduate Center): “The Sound of Survival: Undying Humanity in an Age of Cataclysm”

10:15 Benjamin Piekut (Cornell University): “The Vernacular Avant-garde and the Low Arts of Resistance”

11:00 *Coffee Break*

Speaker Panel #2 (Brent Hayes Edwards, Moderator)

11:15 Fumi Okiji (Northwestern University): “Fleshiness of Jazz Record: The Tradition in Four Hundred and One Folds”

12:00 Ingrid Monson (Harvard University): “Courage and Improvisation”

12:45 *Lunch Buffet*

Panel Discussion

1:30 The Sound of Resistance: Arts and Social Justice

Featuring:

Cooper-Moore (multi-instrumentalist; composer); Patricia Nicholson Parker (choreographer; artistic director, Vision Festival); James Brandon Lewis (tenor saxophonist; composer); Luke Stewart (bassist, composer); Gargi Shinde (Program Director, Chamber Music America Jazz); Brandon Lopez (bassist; composer)

Moderated by Scott Currie (University of Minnesota)

3:00 *Coffee Break*

Keynote Address: Fred Moten

3:30 Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Robert O’Meally (Columbia University)

3:45 KEYNOTE: Fred Moten (University of California, Riverside): “A Resistant Previousness”

4:30 Q&A

5:00 Closing Remarks