



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 17, 2006

**COMPOSERS NOW!**

**CORNISH ALUMNI EYVIND KANG, ZACH WATKINS & MARK OI**

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Friday, March 3, 8 pm

New compositions in jazz, electronic and cross-genre experimental music.

Composer Eyvind Kang, violin with Tim Young, electric guitar and Geoff Harper, bass

Composer Zach Watkins, electronics, laptop with John Seman, bass; Mark Ostrowski, percussion; Izaak Mills, woodwinds; Cornish Art alum Joe Gray, video

Composer Mark Oi, guitar

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$15 general, \$7.50 students, seniors & Cornish College alumni.

Purchase tickets through Ticket Window: 206.325.6500, [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com)

or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Broadway Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

For information, please call 206.726.5011 or email [events@cornish.edu](mailto:events@cornish.edu)

**SEATTLE, WA** – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to present **Composers Now!**, a concert by Cornish alumni composer/performers **Eyvind Kang, Zach Watkins and Mark Oi** on Friday, March 3, at 8 pm in PONCHO Concert Hall.

The program features performances of original works by three Cornish Music Alumni: Eyvind Kang, Zach Watkins and Mark Oi. Composer/violinist Eyvind Kang will perform with Tim Young on electric guitar and Geoff Harper on bass. Zach Watkins' compositions will feature John Seman, bass; Mark Ostrowski, percussion; and Izaak Mills, woodwinds; with video work by Cornish alum Joe Gray and Watkins himself on laptop and electronics. Composer/guitarist Mark Oi will also perform original works.

This concert will showcase both compositions and musical performances by three very different and highly talented Cornish College Music Alumni. One of the featured works of the evening, Zach Watkins' *Aircraft Without Life* is written for Floss and Lil'Ray with live video projection by fellow Cornish alumnus Joe Gray. Floss is an ensemble comprised of Mark Ostrowski on percussion, Izaak Mills on woodwinds and John Seman on contra bass. Lil'Ray (Zach Watkins himself) will generate electronic music using various instruments and computer with live input feeds from the band.

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Born in Corvallis, Oregon, **violinist Eyvind Kang** began studying violin at age 6 in “Suzuki” method classes in Regina, Saskatchewan. He learned tuba in the school band at Winnipeg, Manitoba. Kang attended high school in Edmonton, Alberta, and spent two years at the University of Alberta in Edmonton as a philosophy major before relocating to Seattle, where he has lived for the past 10 years. He studied music at Cornish College of the Arts between 1992 and 1994, and also studied violin with Michael White.

While still at Cornish, Kang traveled to New York where he was met John Zorn. He later performed with Zorn and his game piece, Cobra. Through this connection Kang met many artists who he still works with today, including Trey Spruance & Bill Frisell.

In 1994, Kang received an Artist Support Program grant from Jack Straw Foundations, which went to fund the recording of the first seven of his series of musical compositions called "NADEs." This recording, *7 NADEs*, was released on Zorn's Tzadik label in 1996, followed two years later by his *Theater of Mineral NADEs*. Inspired by time spent in Iceland as a child, Kang released *The Story of Iceland* in 2000, also on Tzadik.

Kang has traveled to India, Italy, Iceland & Australia composing and playing his own material as well as working on many other projects. He has played violin with John Zorn, Bill Frisell's quartet, the Sun City Girls and Wayne Horvitz' 4 + 1 Ensemble. Kang has also recorded & toured with Trey Spruance's Secret Chiefs 3 and performed on Mr. Bungle's *California*.

A Seattle-based guitarist/composer **Mark Oi** recently completed a degree in music from Cornish College of the Arts, graduating at the top of his class. At Cornish he studied with some of Seattle's finest musicians, including Denney Goodhew, James Knapp and Jovino Santos-Neto.

Mark spent a ten-year tenure with legendary Danish saxophonist/composer John Tchicai, touring and recording in the United States, Germany and Denmark. In 2005 Mark was a part of a project that donated musical instruments and equipment to the town of Santa Maria in Cape Verde. There he taught workshops and performed at the sixteenth annual music festival on the island of Sal.

Drawing on a variety of genres and techniques including jazz, the avant garde, and new music, Oi's compositions incorporate the use of graphic and standard notation, as well as chord changes. Mark began composing in the early 90's and his compositions have been performed and recorded by John Tchicai and Polish bassist Vitold Rek. Clarinetist Beth Fleenor and trumpet player Jim Knapp have also performed his music.

**Zachary Watkins** was born in 1980 in Lubbock, Texas and lives in Oakland, California. He began taking piano lessons at around age eight from an eccentric woman named Marihelen Snow, who encouraged composition, improvisation and synthesis. In her small studio she had a grand piano and an ARP analog synthesizer that she expected her students to explore. Ms. Snow published a patch manual for the ARP in the seventies entitled [The Waveform Music Book, Composing Teaching Playing with the ARP 2600](#). In high school, Watkins attended experimental music classes at Texas Tech University taught by Dr. Steve Paxton. This experience introduced Watkins to more advanced levels of synthesis, composition and improvisation. Watkins holds a degree in music composition from Cornish College of the Arts. He was

awarded the Evelyn V. Staton Fellowship to study at Mills where he is currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts in Electronic Music and Recording Media. He has studied composition with Janice Giteck, Jarrad Powell, Robin Holcomb, Jovino Santos Neto, Chris Brown and Fred Frith.

As a recording engineer, Watkins has worked with composer James Tenney, free jazz trio "Floss" on Monktail Records, Paul Rutherford, Harris Eisenstadt, and poet Stephen Ratcliffe. He has collaborated with choreographer Becca Levy and Butoh choreographer Christina Braun on works performed at the South Pasadena High Performing Arts Center and the Temescal Arts Center in Oakland, CA. Watkins is currently in progress on a collaborative work with choreographer Lola A. Katie, which will be premiered at the Mills Dance Thesis presentations on March 18, 2006.

Watkins was awarded a Mills Research Grant that went to fund the performance of the multimedia work *L.C.S.L.* involving video, SuperCollider generated synthesis, string bass, prepared piano and percussion. The Odeon String Quartet and the Seattle Chamber Players have performed his compositions. A spring of 2004 commission by clarinetist Beth Fleenor yielded the new work *(206)culture*, scored for tape, b flat bass clarinet, prepared piano and maracas. As a performer he played prepared piano and electronics in *I, Norton*, a multimedia opera by composer Gino Robair. He also appears on the studio recording of *I, Norton*. Zachary recently performed interactive electronics as part of the Jon Rose residency concert at Mills College. His most recent sound art work entitled *Designed Obsolescence*, "spoke as a metaphor for the breakdown of the dream of technology and the myth of our society's permanence," according to a review by Susan Noyes Platt in the Summer 2005 issue of *ARTLIES*. The Walrus Press and Birds & Whistles have also published his compositions.

#### **ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

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Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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