



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2006

QUODIA

WORD:MUSIC:FILM

**Featuring Trey Gunn (King Crimson)
and Joe Mendelson (Rise Robots Rise)**

Friday, February 24 & Saturday, February 25, 8 pm

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

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

In addition, Quodia offers a workshop, Friday February 24, noon - 1:30 pm in PONCHO Concert Hall.

The workshop is free and open to the public.

For information, please call 206.726.5011 or email events@cornish.edu

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to present two performances by multimedia storytelling duo *Quodia* on Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25, 8 pm at PONCHO Concert Hall. Featuring Trey Gunn (King Crimson) and Joe Mendelson (formerly with Rise Robots Rise) Quodia is, according to BBC Moscow “a synthesis of music, theater, video art, and animation – a psychedelic contemporary parable.” After a multitude of international performances, Quodia brings their seven-chapter tale, *The Arrow*, to the U.S. for the first time, as part of the award-winning Cornish Music Series.

Quodia combines the talent of Trey Gunn, who recorded seventeen albums with the well-known, adventurous rock band King Crimson, and multi-dimensional musician Joe Mendelson. “Quodia is an advanced step in the tradition that unites Literature and Music. Channeling both Brian Eno and Jack Kerouac, they unfold an elegant spectacle, telling histories with surprise, mystery, fear, and salvation. Quodia is a loaded weapon of the future,” writes the Toma Review from Santiago, Chile.

-continued-

Trey Gunn and Joe Mendelson formed Quodia as a multi-media storytelling project, in an effort to engage viewers' imaginations in an active and engaging experience. After years of collaborating on music projects around the world, the two artists found themselves looking for a performance opportunity with more breadth. Using video projection and live instruments, including a 10 string touch guitar, video projector, digital audio mixer, keyboards and electronic percussion, Quodia will create *The Arrow*, an immersive experience that is part film, part theater and part concert.

In addition to the two evening performances, Quodia will offer a workshop on Friday, February 24 from noon to 1:30 pm at PONCHO Concert Hall. This lunchtime workshop is free and open to the public.

A native Texan now residing in Seattle, **Trey Gunn** is best known for being a member of the band King Crimson – a group many contend as the most aggressively, adventurous rock band of all time. In the decade after he joined the band in 1994, Gunn participated in seventeen King Crimson CDs, two DVDs and hundreds of performances. For his role in this configuration of the group (Adrian Belew, Robert Fripp, Pat Mastelotto and Trey Gunn), Gunn helped develop a new and unique instrument, the Warr Guitar, a 10-string touch guitar with the range of a piano.

Gunn began playing classical piano at age 7. His interest in music grew through various instruments: electric bass, electric and acoustic guitar, keyboards, and the touch guitar. Gunn completed a degree in classical music composition at the University of Oregon before moving to New York City. In 1992 he joined David Sylvian and Robert Fripp in a collaborative project that toured throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. The band released *The First Day*, a studio album, and *Damage*, a live recording from the Royal Albert Hall in London. During this period Gunn also recorded his first solo album *One Thousand Years*, merging storytelling, dreamtime and music. Gunn now has 7 solo recordings to his name, many of which feature the Warr Guitar. In 2003, Gunn began working in multi-dimensional art forms, including creating a series of children's stories set in Africa, a setting of Gregory Orr's poem *Orpheus and Eurydice*, and joining forces with Joe Mendelson to create Quodia. In addition to helping run the Seattle-based collective music label, First World (FWD) as well as a multimedia production company (7 Directions), Gunn divides his time between solo work, scoring music for film and television, and building multi-dimensional media projects.

Growing up in upstate New York, **Joe Mendelson** studied classical piano, jazz keyboards and guitar. At age 15, he began performing professionally, and moved to New York City at age 17 to enter the Music, Business and Technology program at NYU. Soon after arriving in New York, Mendelson began soaking up the myriad art and performance experiences the city offers. He was fortunate enough to see seminal performances by artists Peter Gabriel, Laurie Anderson and The Residents - artists whose use of theatrical elements would have a lasting impact on his work.

-continued-

In 1986 Mendelson formed the experimental music quartet Fibre, which became a staple of the thriving performance art scene, appearing at such legendary venues as PS 122, the Knitting Factory, A Micah Bunker, and Space 2B. In addition to their highly acclaimed albums, *I Cried at the Fair* and *Sub Aquatic Memories*, Fibre debuted *Seat of Dreams* with renowned New York dance company Avila/Weeks. In 1992, Mendelson founded avant-pop band Rise Robots Rise, which recorded two classic albums for TVT records, *Rise Robots Rise* and *Spawn*. In 1997, as part of his mission to find venues for new kinds of performance, Mendelson became one of the founders of the now legendary music venue, The Living Room. At this time, he also established Antenna Productions, a post-production studio for independent films, documentaries, television and countless musical recordings. In 2000, Mendelson joined The Trey Gunn Band. Working together, Mendelson and Gunn created complex video compositions to accompany challenging instrumental music. Using laptop computers, lightweight video projectors, and innovative video manipulation software, the pair developed seamlessly integrated video into performance, which they controlled from the stage. Bringing together musical and theatrical ideas, and using the latest technology to create a multi-media experience of tremendous power and impact, Mendelson and Gunn created the performance ensemble Quodia.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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.

####

