

TOTAL-IMPROVISATION UNIT

- Nobu Stowe & Achille Succi with Special Guest: Barry Altschul-



Total-improvisation is a genre of fully improvised music. Unlike “free improvisation” which is often restricted to atonal and arrhythmic experimentation, total-improvisation embraces song-like melody, tonal harmony and rhythmic propulsion. Despite its enormous potential, total-improvisation has been little practiced. The rare exception is the Japan-born pianist, Nobu Stowe, whose critically acclaimed albums on Soul Note (Italy) and Konnex (Germany) prove not only his mastering of the difficult method, but also distinctive composition-oriented approach towards collective group improvisation. In the lyrically free flight of the Italian reedman, Achille Succi, Stowe has found an ideal partner. Their fully improvised music incorporates diverse musical elements (jazz, classical, rock, pop, avant-garde and various world music) and sounds almost pre-composed, yet never loses spontaneity. Following the successful appearance at Sant’Anna Arresi Jazz Festival (Italy) in Summer 2009, the duo persuaded the drum legend, Barry Altschul, to form a working trio. Altschul’s highly individualistic and versatile drumming will inevitably add multiple dimensions to the adventurous-yet-melodic improvisation of Stowe & Succi.

NOBU STOWE – Piano

Nobu Stowe (Nobuyoshi Suto) was born in Maebashi, Gumma, Japan. He started taking piano lessons at age 3 and composition at age 6. Stowe moved to the US to study Music (composition) and Psychology at University of California, at Berkeley. He then moved to Chicago to pursue graduate studies at University of Chicago. After receiving Ph.D. in Psychology, he moved to Baltimore to work as a ‘drug researcher’ for National Institute of Health. In Baltimore, Stowe formed the post-fusion unit TRIO RICOCHET. This trio performed at top venues, including Blue Note NY, The Knitting Factory, and Smithsonian Institute. Stowe has also lead/co-lead various projects exploring ‘total-improvisation’ collaborating with Perry Robinson, Badal Roy, and Andrea Centazzo et al. Stowe has been featured/interviewed on Coda Magazine (Canada), Cuadernos de Jazz (Spain), Toma Jazz (Spain), Jazz Colo(u)rs (Italy), Jazz.Pt (Portugal), Jazz & Tzaz (Greece), and Jazz Tokyo (Japan). Stowe regularly contributes columns and interviews (including ones with Keith Jarrett, Michel Legrand, Gary Peacock, Paul Bley, Bill Frisell, Martial Solal, Marilyn Crispell, and Barry Guy) for Jazz Tokyo. www.myspace.com/nobustowe *“This pianist fuses post-Evans lyricism and avant aggression with headlong forays reminiscent of Jarrett melodic spontaneity” Jim DeJong – Jazz Institute of Chicago*

ACHILLE SUCCI – Alto Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Clarinet, Shakuhachi,

Achille Succi was born in Modena, Italy (1971). He is mostly self-taught, and has been professional musician since age of 18. Succi has recorded over 70 CDs (8 albums as leader/co-leader) for various labels, including Splas[h], Artesuono, Black Saint, Soul Note, Winter & Winter, Intakt, EGEA and Leo. Beside his own projects, Succi participates in projects including those lead by Giorgio Gaslini, Uri Caine, Louis Sclavis, Franco D’Andrea, Butch Morris, Pierre Dorge, Paolino Dalla Porta, Furio Di Castri, and Tiziano Tononi. He has also collaborated with such notable jazz players, including Enrico Rava, Italian Instabile Orchestra, Dave Douglas, Ab Baars, Ernst Rejiseger, Don Friedman, David Liebman, Kenny Wheeler, Ralph Alessi, and Herb Robertson. As winner of the prestigious “Pépinieres Européennes pour Jeunes Artistes” (France) and “Berklee in Umbria” (Italy/USA), he received scholarships to attend Copenhagen Rhythmic Conservatory (Denmark) and Berklee School of Music (USA), respectively. Succi has held jazz

workshops throughout in Italy as well as in Hessen, Germany. Since 2001, he has taught at the famous workshops at Siena Jazz, and since 2006, he is a faculty at the Conservatory of Ferrara. www.myspace.com/achillesucci *"Succi is as free as a bird, and fits easily into any situation ranging from plaintive beauty to organized chaos"* **Budd Kopman – All About Jazz**

BARRY ALTSCHUL – Drums

Born in the south Bronx on the 6th of January 1943, drummer-composer Barry Altschul was quickly ensconced in the hard bop scene of the late 50's. But it was a gig started in 1964 with pianist Paul Bley's trio that put him amongst the ranks in the New York's burgeoning free jazz scene. This resulted in world tours and recordings with such notables as Steve Swallow, Gary Peacock, the Jazz Composers' Guild Orchestra, Steve Lacy, Roswell Rudd, and many others. At the end of the 60s, he formed the groundbreaking cooperative "Circle" with Chick Corea, Anthony Braxton and Dave Holland and toured/recorded with Sam Rivers Trio (with Holland) as well as Anthony Braxton Quartet with (Holland, Georges Lewis or Kenny Wheeler). His familiarity with the tradition also landed him work with the likes of Hampton Hawes, Sonny Criss, Lee Konitz, Art Pepper, Kenny Drew, Tony Scott, Johnny Griffin, and Babs Gonzalez. Altschul also led his own free bop groups, with such luminaries as Muhal, Richard Abrams, Anthony Davis, Ray Anderson, Mark Helias, and Uri Caine et al. During a 10-year sojourn in Paris, he was chosen to be the first foreign artistic director of the French regional big band of Nancy. During that time, he also toured Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe as a cultural ambassador for the USIS. Returning to the US in 1993, he worked as a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, and played with a Dave Douglas project where he was reunited with Roswell Rudd. Today, besides performing with Rudd's "Trombone Tribe", he takes a part in F.A.B. Trio (with Joe Fonda & Billy Bang), Steve Swell-Gebhard Ullmann band and many other projects. Altschul has participated in over a 160 recordings, 10 of which are under his own leadership. When asked how his music is best described, Altschul quotes the late great drummer Beaver Harris: "from Rag Time to no time. www.myspace.com/barryaltschul *"Barry Altschul is much more than a drummer. He is a musician of the highest caliber"* **Greg Gallagher - CODA**

Selected Member Discography

Nobu Stowe

| | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|--|
| Brooklyn Moments | 2006. | Konnex | [w/ Blaise Siwula, Ray Sage] |
| New York Moments | 2006. | Konnex | [w/ Blaise Siwula, Dom Minasi, Ray Sage] |
| Andrea Centazzo - The Soul in The Mist | 2007. | Ictus | [w/ Andrea Centazzo, Perry Robinson] |
| Hommage an Klaus Kinski | 2007. | Soul Note | [w/ Lee Pembleton, Perry Robinson, Blaise Siwula, John McLellan, Ross Bonadonna] |
| An die Musik | 2008. | Soul Note | [w/ Alan Munshower, Badal Roy] |
| Confusion Bleue | 2010. | Soul Note | [w/ Lee Pembleton, Ross Bonadonna, Tyler Goodwin, Ray Sage] |

Achille Succi

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|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------|---|
| Giorgio Gaslini – Urban Griot | 2004. | Soul Note | |
| Puntolinea | 2004. | Bassesferec | [w/ "Atman" feat. Alberto Capelli, Fabrizio Puglisi] |
| Shiva's Dance | 2003. | Artesuono | [w/ Ralph Allisi, Andrea Dulbecco, Salvatore Maiore, |
| Terra | 2006. | Splas[h] | [w/ Beppe Caruso, Salvatore Maiore, Roberto Dani Massimo Manzi] |
| Pequenas Flores do Inferno | 2006. | El Gallo Rojo | [w/ Salvatore Maiore] |
| Uri Cane - The Othello Syndrome | 2008. | Winter & Winter | |
| Three Lines | 2008. | Artesuono | [w/ Giovanni Maier, U.T. Gandhi] |

Barry Altschul

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|--|-------|------------|---|
| Paul Bley - Closer | 1965. | ESP | [w/ Paul Bley, Steve Swallow] |
| Virtuosi | 1967. | IAI | [w/ Paul Bley, Gary Peacock] |
| Chick Corea – A.R.C. | 1971. | ECM | [w/ Chick Corea, Dave Holland] |
| Circle – Paris Concert | 1971. | ECM | [w/ Anthony Braxton, Chick Corea, Dave Holland] |
| Dave Holland – Conference of the Birds | 1972. | ECM | [w/ Dave Holland, Sam Rivers, Anthony Braxton] |
| Sam Rivers Trio – Live | 1973. | Impulse! | [w/ Sam Rivers, Cecil McBee, Arild Andersen] |
| Anthony Braxton – 5 Pieces | 1975. | Arista | [w/ Anthony Braxton, Kenny Wheeler, Dave Holland] |
| You Can't Name Your Own Tune | 1976. | Muse | [w/ George Lewis, Muhal Richard Abrams, D. Holland] |
| Paul Bley – Japan Suite | 1976. | IAI | [w/ Paul Bley, Gary Peacock] |
| For Stu | 1979. | Soul Note | [w/ Ray Anderson, Anthony Davis, Rick Rozie] |
| Irina | 1983. | Soul Note | [w/ Enrico Rava, John Surman, Mark Helias] |
| That's Nice | 1986. | Soul Note | [w/ Glen Ferris, Sean Bergin, Mike Mellilo, A. McKee] |
| F.A.B Trio – Transforming the Space | 2003. | CIMP | [w/ Billy Bang, Joe Fonda] |
| Roswell Rudd – Trombone Tribe | 2009. | Sunny Side | [w/ Roswell Rudd, Ray Anderson, Henry Grimes] |

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