

Duane Pitre

AVANT-GARDE COMPOSER AND PERFORMER

WWW.DUANEPITRE.COM

BIOGRAPHY

Duane Pitre is an American avant-garde composer, performer, and sound artist. His work often focuses on the tensions between electronic sound and acoustic instrumentation, chaos and discipline, as well as site-specificity and performativity. The composer frequently utilizes alternate tuning schemes that focus on microtonality, enabling him to explore unaccustomed harmonic intervallic relationships. He has created works for various instrumentation configurations such as string orchestra, his own bowed harmonic-guitar ensemble, string/wind ensembles, and more.

The composer has presented his works in New York City at such spaces as Roulette, The Stone, MoMA's P.S.1, Phillips de Pury & Co., Ontological-Hysteric Theatre at St. Mark's Church, St. Ann's Cathedral, and ISSUE Project Room (where the Jerome Foundation provided funding for his spring 2009 Artist in Residency). He has also performed across the U.S., as well as in Europe and has presented sound installations at various art galleries such as the Contemporary Art Center of New Orleans. He has received commissions for new works by ISSUE Project Room, the String Orchestra of Brooklyn, and Roulette, amongst others. Over 100 unique musicians from around the world have taken part in the performances of his works.

Pitre has been featured in publications such as Foxy Digitalis, Pitchfork, and NewMusicBox. His work has been released by labels including Important Records, Root Strata, NNA, and Basses Frequences. He's appeared on compilations with such artists as Keith Rowe, Sir Richard Bishop, Tetuzi Akiyama, and Jandek; he has also appeared on soundtracks with Dinosaur Jr., Battles, and Animal Collective. In 2009 he curated and contributed a track to a Just Intonation compilation (released on Important Records), alongside Pauline Oliveros, Ellen Fullman, Greg Davis, Charles Curtis, and others.

The start of 2011 saw Pitre finishing a piece for string orchestra that was performed by the String Orchestra of Brooklyn (in March 2011) at a 19th-century Gothic Revival cathedral in Brooklyn Heights (alongside commissioned works by Tony Conrad and others). In May 2011 he headed to the mountains of Woodstock, NY with his unique sextet to record his new album-length work, *Feel Free*. In September 2011, the sextet performed this work at the 2011 Hopscotch Festival in Raleigh, NC (also featuring The Flaming Lips, Earth, Swans, J. Mascis, Guided by Voices, Rhys Chatham, and many more). March 2012 will see the release of *Feel Free* (CD/LP) on Important Records.

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SELECTED PUBLISHED RECORDINGS

March 2012

Feel Free

LP/CD – Important Records (USA)

Album-length work (of the same title) for a unique sextet combination ft. Jesse Sparhawk, James Ilgenfritz & Jim Altieri.

March 2012

Split release w/ Eleh

LP – Important Records (USA)

DP side consists of a recording of the installation version of *Feel Free*.

November 2011

ED09 for String Ensemble - Live at The Stone

LP – Basses Frequences (France)

June/August 2010

Origin

LP/CD – Root Strata (USA)

Long-form piece in five movements for a septet of bowed "harmonic-guitars," which are unconventionally strung electric guitars tuned in Just Intonation.

November 2009

V/A "The Harmonic Series: a compilation of musical works in just intonation"

CD compilation – Important Records (USA)

Curated this compilation as well as contributed a track along w/ Pauline Oliveros, Ellen Fullman, Michael Harrison, Greg Davis, Charles Curtis, among others.

July 2009

ED09 for String/Wind Ensemble - Live at Roulette

CD – Quiet Design Records (USA)

22-piece ensemble performance at Roulette, an experimental contemporary music space in NYC since 1978.

March 2009

V/A "Err on the Good Side"

12" vinyl compilation

Three:Four Records (France/Switzerland)

Curated by ali_fib productions (France)

w/ Sir Richard Bishop, Thierry Muller/Ilitch, Steve Gunn, etc.

January 2009

V/A "Spectra: Guitar in the 21st Century"

CD compilation – Quiet Design Records (USA)

w/ Keith Rowe, Tetuzi Akiyama, Sebastien Roux, Jandek, etc.

July 2007

Duane Pitre "Organized Pitches Occurring in Time"

CD/LP – Important Records/Trome Records (USA/UK)

COMMISSIONS

October 2011

Roulette

New work for Roulette's Easy Not Easy Festival.

October 2010

String Orchestra of Brooklyn

New work for string orchestra.

December 2008

Sang Bleu

Created soundtrack material for the short film "Trap," produced by the Swiss periodical, *Sang Bleu*.

ARTIST RESIDENCY

Spring 2009

ISSUE Project Room

GRANTS AWARDED

January 2009

The Jerome Foundation

For ISSUE Project Room's Artist in Residence Program (Spring 2009)

SELECTED PRESS

July 2010

NewMusicBox

Video Spotlight / Interview

April 2011

Novembre Magazine

Interview

July 2010

Pitchfork Media

Article / Interview

April 2010

Foxy Digitalis

Feature / Interview

FILM/VIDEO SOUNDTRACKS

February 2009

MInd Field by Alien Workshop

Substantial presence in this groundbreaking skateboard film alongside J. Mascis, Dinosaur Jr., Animal Collective, Growing, etc. Pitre's tracks used in bonus feature, DVD menu, and more.

ASSOCIATIONS

Pitre has shared performance bills with artists such as Marc Ribot, Tony Conrad, Audrey Chen, Sean Meehan, Greg Davis, James Blackshaw, & Anni Rossi. He has had over 100 different musicians from France, England, Spain, Italy, Israel, Brazil and the U.S. take part in the performances of his works. He was the guitarist for the San Diego-based band The Camera Obscura. He skateboarded professionally for Alien Workshop.

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SELECTED PRESS CLIPS

ORIGIN – LP/CD (2010)

"Duane's been on something of a roll w/ his last few releases...and this just raises the bar with an impeccably recorded set of raga-centric music ... channeling ellen fullman, paul panhuysen, & johan goedhart ... highly recommended !!!"

– Mimaroglu Music Sales / Keith Fullerton Whitman

"... like a slow sunrise over India ... strings cascading over one another like warm honey ... immense waves of warm, majestic harmonics completely engulf you ... into the sky to follow the sun on it's descent to the horizon ... Pitre has truly excelled here ... create[d] something completely unique and totally his own ... incredibly remarkable work"

– Nick Giles / Cyclic Defrost

ED09 FOR STRING/WIND ENSEMBLE, LIVE AT ROULETTE – CD (2009)

"ED09 follows in the footsteps of such long-form composers as Morton Feldman and Phil Niblock ... the textural music of Ligeti and Xenakis ... This is drone music of rare depth and power, rich with crescendos and bucolic calm."

– Joshua Meggitt / Cyclic Defrost

"Pitre as a composer is interested in microtonality ... In this forty minute live recording this works absolutely beautiful. Sounds swell, sustain, go away and everything flows into each other in what seems to be a natural way ... An excellent work."

– Vital Weekly / Frans de Waard

"... layers of instrument sounds restlessly shift and overlap, and it's this aspect that, on purely listening grounds, proves [ED09] most captivating. When ED09 begins its descent at about the thirty-nine-minute mark and then fades into silence, one is left feeling, strangely enough, that it's over too soon ... an engrossing listening experience."

– Textura.org

ORGANIZED PITCHES OCCURRING IN TIME – CD/LP (2007)

"Joy for me can be summarized by the existence of things like the new Duane Pitre LP, 'Organized Pitches Occurring in Time' ... [an] album that will be on my turntable for days to come, and whose sleeve will never leave the side of my speakers for months ... Beautiful, stark, highly effective, and austere compelling ... genuinely brilliant release. (10 out of 10)"

– Foxy Digitalis / John Cramer

"the two side-length pieces hereon offer beautifully recorded aggregates of large-group tonal stasis, on par with the best of 'classic minimalism' (jon gibson comes to mind, as does some of charlemagne palestine's organ work)."

– Mimaroglu Music Sales / Keith Fullerton Whitman

"... blissfully sparse sound grooves riding sonically dynamic peaks and valleys. Pitre also writes East Indian microtonal textures into this music, which sometimes sound like night ragas."

– Exclaim / Jerry Pratt

"... splendidly conceived and executed material...this album is so gorgeously entrancing that I really don't care if it's also directly related to La Monte Young, Tony Conrad or Phill Niblock ... I'd even associate some of Pitre's layers to selected pages of the early 90s' version of Jim O'Rourke. But quoting all these names - which is only needed to channel your focus on an evasive idea of how this stuff sounds like - doesn't render justice to the strength of the recording, which catapults Pitre just a split hair below the upper echelon of contemporary minimalism."

– Touching Extremes / Massimo Ricci

SPECTRA - GUITAR IN THE 21ST CENTURY – COMPILATION CD (2009)

"On this compilation we find...people with some reputation on the scene like Sebastian Roux, Duane Pitre ... and two old masters of the guitar, Keith Rowe and Jandek ... Its quite a strong compilation ... with outstanding pieces by Duane Pitre and Keith Rowe."

– Vital Weekly / Frans de Waard

"the best pieces on 'Guitar in the 21st Century' are usually those which, rather ironically, betray no hint whatsoever that they were made with a guitar. On Duane Pitre's 'Music for Microtonal Guitars and Mallets' our beloved instrument is mutated in such a way that it resembles a kind of electrified bagpipe."

– Experimusic / Simon Chandler

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SELECTED PERFORMANCES/INSTALLATIONS

October 1, 2011 – January 29, 2012

**The Contemporary Art Center of New Orleans (CAC)
New Orleans, LA**

Sound Installation (*Feel Free*) in group show, consisting of 35 New Orleans-based artists.

September 10, 2011

Hopscotch Music Festival - Raleigh, NC

Sextet

Festival included artists such as The Flaming Lips, Earth, Swans, J. Mascis, Guided by Voices, Rhys Chatham, Superchunk, and many more.

March 12, 2011

St. Ann's Cathedral - Brooklyn, NY

String Orchestra

October 9-November 7, 2011

Antenna Gallery - New Orleans, LA

"Perceived Dichotomies" group show w/ DP sound installation (*Feel Free*) + opening night solo performance

August 15, 2010

Important Records Showcase

@ **ISSUE Project Room - Brooklyn, NY**

Sextet

May 30, 2010

Zebulon – Brooklyn, NY

Sextet

April 25, 2010

Zeitgeist Arts Center – New Orleans, LA

Solo

September 18, 2009

Monkey Town – Brooklyn, NY

Solo

September 12, 2009

PS1 (MoMA) – Long Island City, NY

Solo

August 8, 2009

Rhys Chatham's "A Crimson Grail"

Lincoln Center/Damrosch Park – NYC

(One of the 200 guitarists)

January-April 2009

ISSUE Project Room – Spring '09 Artist in Resident

Four performances: March 8, 25 & April 11, 25

February 26, 2009

The Stone – NYC

String Ensemble

December 4, 2008

Roulette – NYC

String/Wind Ensemble

October 25, 2008

St. Giles-in-the-Fields Church – London, UK

String/Wind Ensemble

October 21, 2008

Les Voûtes – Paris, FR

String/Wind Ensemble

October 18, 2008

Redland Park Church – Bristol, UK

String/Wind Ensemble

September 18, 2008

Phillips de Pury & Co. – NYC

Bowed Harmonic-Guitar Ensemble

July 25, 2008

Civilian Arts Project – Washington, DC

Solo/Collaboration w/ Ilya Monosov

July 18, 2008

ISSUE Project Room – Brooklyn, NY

Bowed Harmonic-Guitar Ensemble

December 8, 2007

Kriya Studio – Burlington, VT

String/Woodwind Ensemble

April 29, 2007

The Pistol Social Club – Kansas City, MO

Solo/Collaboration w/ Expo '70t

March 3, 2007

Pehr Space – Los Angeles, CA

Solo

June 7, 2006

UCSD – San Diego, CA

Solo

April 7, 2006

Spaceland – Los Angeles, CA

Solo

July 20, 2005

St Mark's Church – NYC

Mixed Ensemble