

JASON ROEBKE



KEEFE JACKSON



TOMEKA REID



CHRISTOPH ERB

EXPLORING THE OPTIONS OF SOUND.

This seems to be the most suitable way to describe what is going on here: Exploring sound and structure, harmony and disharmony. No wonder that this sounds...bulky, eruptive, at times brutal, at times irritating, seldom calm or soothing. Though, at least it's never unspectacular, half-hearted or ill-considered.

With KEEFE JACKSON and CHRISTOPH ERB on bass clarinet and tenor saxophone, TOMEKA REID on cello and JASON ROEBKE on bass, this is a merger of four free-spirited sound nerds, complementing one another. It goes without saying that this mighty tempest of sounds may conjure up images of rugged crater landscapes, or of a future crowded with nothing but wretched skeletons, dancing away in a manic frenzy.

The group's debut album will be released this summer on **Veto Records** (Switzerland). *Fred Lonberg-Holm* (cello), who appears on the record, is being replaced for this tour by *Jason Roebke* (double bass).

As they say: It's a challenging listening experience. Yet, an experience nonetheless.

KEEFE JACKSON is a Chicago saxophonist/clarinetist/improviser/composer. He arrived in Chicago in 2001 from his native Fayetteville, Arkansas. He performs regularly in the U.S. and in Europe with many musicians including *Tim Daisy, Dave Rempis, Jeb Bishop, Jason Roebke, Guillermo Gregorio, Jason Adasiewicz, Mike Reed, Jason Stein, Josh Berman, Aram Shelton, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Frank Rosaly, and Marc Unternaehrer* in groups such as the **Fast Citizens, Chicago Luzern Exchange, and Keefe Jackson's Project Project**, a larger ensemble. As an improviser he has played with *Michael Moore, Ab Baars, Michiel Braam, and Anthony Coleman*. Recordings are available on **Delmark and Clean Feed Records**.

CHRISTOPH ERB, is a tenor saxophonist/bass clarinetist, improviser, composer and music presenter. He currently lives in Lucerne, Switzerland. 2006, he won the ZKB Swiss Jazz prize with his group **erb_gut**. Awarded in 2007 of the culture prize of the city Lucerne. 2011, Scholarship of the city and canton of Lucerne for a four month stay in Chicago as an artist in residence where he recorded several sessions: **Erb/Baker/Zerang, Erb Alone, Erb/Lonberg-Holm/Roebke/Rosaly, "Screw and Straw"** (a duo with cellist **Lonberg-Holm**.) **Erb/Baker** and the **Bererberg Trio** (with **Josh Berman and Fred Lonberg-Holm**)

2012 he received the Art and Culture prize of the Kanton Lucerne. He leads his own bands: **Lila, Veto, BigVeto and erb_gut**. Erb has performed and recorded with some of the most internationally respected improvising musicians and composers in jazz and improvised music: *Jim Baker, Michael Zerang, Jason Stein, Josh Berman, Paul Lovens, Martin Schütz, Christy Doran, Urs Leimgruber, Hans Koch, Daniel Humair, Harald Härter, Peter Schärli, Christian Weber, Christian Wolfart* and many others. As a sideman he collaborates among others with **Manuel Mengis Gruppe 6** (Cd "*Into the Barn*", *HatHut*) He has toured in Europe, South America and the US.

TOMEKA REID is a Chicago based cellist, composer and educator, and has been described as "a remarkably versatile player" by the Chicago Tribune. Equally adept in classical and jazz contexts, Ms. Reid predominantly finds herself in experimental and improvisatory settings and composes for a wide range of instrumentation, from big band to chamber ensemble. Ms. Reid's music combines her love for groove along with freer concepts.

Ms. Reid is an integral part of **Dee Alexander's Evolution Ensemble, Nicole Mitchell's Black Earth Ensemble/Strings, Mike Reed's Loose Assembly, the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) Great Black Music Ensemble**, and co-leads the internationally recognized

string trio, **Hear in Now** with performances in Poznan, Poland; Paris, France; Rome, Venice, Milan, Italy; Soazza, Switzerland; and in the US: Chicago, New York and Vermont. In addition to the aforementioned ensembles, Ms. Reid performs with many of today's forward thinking musicians in the world of jazz and creative music including *Anthony Braxton, George Lewis, Roscoe Mitchell, Jeb Bishop, Myra Melford, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Mary Halvorson, Denis Fournier, Edward Wilkerson and Harrison Bankhead*. Ms. Reid also leads her own trio featuring guitarist *Matt Schneider* and bassist *Josh Abrams*, for which she composes. Ms. Reid can be heard on numerous studio recordings.

As an educator, Ms. Reid has led string improvisation workshops in Italy and the US. Most recently she co-directed the *2012 Vancouver Jazz Festival's High School Jazz Intensive*. For seven years, Ms. Reid co-directed the string program at the *University of Chicago's Laboratory School* for students grade 5 thru 12. Ms. Reid is also an ABD doctoral candidate at the *University of Illinois: Urbana-Champaign*.

As a composer, Ms. Reid has been commissioned by the **AACM, the Chicago Jazz Festival** and the **Chicago Jazz Ensemble** and has had several opportunities to showcase her work abroad at festivals such as *Umbria Jazz, An Insolent Noise and Vignola Jazz*. She has been nominated and awarded residencies for composition with the *Ragdale Foundation* and the *2nd Annual Make Jazz Fellowship* hosted by the 18th Street Arts Organization. Ms. Reid was selected as a 2012 participant in the *Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute* held at the University of California: Los Angeles.

The diversity of **JASON ROEBKE'S** (double bass) musical associations make him one of the most sought after bassists in Chicago and beyond. His playing is intensely physical, audacious, and sparse. He travels extensively with **Mike Reed's People, Places and Things** quartet and leads his own **Combination** and **Octet** ensembles. Roebke recently played concerts with legendary pop icon *Van Dyke Parks* and released the duo recording, panoramic, with saxophonist *Tobias Delius*. Roebke works closely with choreographer *Ayako Kato* in the group **Art Union Humanscape**. He is a member of the **Jeb Bishop Trio, Jason Adasiewicz Rolldown, James Falzone KLANG, Jason Stein's Locksmith Isidore, and Jorrit Dijkstra's Flatlands Collective & Pillow Circles**.