

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 8, 2010

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**The Rova Saxophone Quartet Premieres
Carla Kihlstedt's *Pandaemonium*
at the Other Minds Festival 15**

a co-production with Other Minds
with narration by Matthias Bossi and Joan Mankin

When: Saturday, March 6, 2010; 7:00 panel discussion with Carla Kihlstedt; 8:00 concert
Where: Kanbar Hall, Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street, San Francisco,
Tickets: Public \$35 | Students \$25 | JCCSF Members \$31 | JCCSF box office tel.:
415.292.1233

Websites: <http://rova.org/> <https://tickets.jccsf.org/public/show.asp>
<http://www.otherminds.org/shtml/Concerts15.shtml>

Event Description:

At the **Other Minds Festival 15** in early March, the Rova Saxophone Quartet will premiere *Pandaemonium*, a new piece composed especially for Rova by celebrated Bay Area composer, improviser, violinist and vocalist Carla Kihlstedt. The work was commissioned in 2009 with funds from Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and it is inspired by the now-classic book *Pandaemonium*, compiled by Humphrey Jennings. *Pandaemonium* illustrates "the imaginative history of the Industrial Revolution" through the voices of the people who most closely watched its speedy approach. Kihlstedt's piece gathers and reacts to a handful of letters and documents written between 1660 and 1880 that respond to the coming of the machine. In her composing of this twenty-minute piece, Kihlstedt also confronted our current age of infinite reproducibility by transcribing the music onto one-of-a-kind pieces of tactile art made from individually sewn cloth graphical-music scores. The piece itself is tailor-made for the Rova Saxophone Quartet and makes great use of these musicians' vast experience with structured improvisation. Alongside the music will be the selected texts, read by actor Joan Mankin and musician Matthias Bossi.

About the Artists

Rova Saxophone Quartet

The acclaimed all-saxophone ensemble has fundamentally extended the horizons of music since forming in 1977. Positioning themselves at music's most dynamic nexus, Rova has become an important leader in the movement of genre-bending music that has its roots in post-bop free jazz, avant-rock, and 20th century new music as well as traditional and popular styles of Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. With its potent mix of stellar musicianship and compositional creativity, Rova explores the synthesis of composition and collective improvisation. The result is adventurous works that are ardent and riveting, exhilarating and free-spirited. While its members compose much of Rova's music, the group has also collaborated with and commissioned new works by a wide range of creative artists.

Since its founding, Rova has released over two dozen recordings of original music. In noting Rova's role in innovatively developing the all-saxophone ensemble as "a regular and conceptually wide-ranging unit," *The Penguin Guide to Jazz* calls its music "a teeming cosmos of saxophone sounds" created by "deliberately eschewing conventional notions about swing [and] prodding at the boundaries of sound and space..." Likewise, *Jazz: The Rough Guide* notes, "Highly inventive, eclectic and willing to experiment, Rova [is] arguably the most exciting of the saxophone quartets to emerge in the format's late '70s boom." More information at www.rova.org

[Carla Kihlstedt](#) (b. 1971) is a celebrated Bay Area virtuoso violinist, composer, and improviser. She is a member of several well-received musical projects, including the ensembles 2 Foot Yard, Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Tin Hat, The Book of Knots, and Causing A Tiger. Kihlstedt has written scores for dance and theater companies (inkBoat, The Joe Goode Performance Group, Flyaway Productions), and on her own label, 12 Cups, has released several such scores written with Matthias Bossi and Dan Rathbun (*Ravish and Other Tales for the Stage*). She has also recently released several new recordings, with Minamo (Tzadik), debut cds of Cosa Brava, Causing a Tiger, Necessary Monsters, and Lisa Bielawa's Double Violin Concerto. Composers including Bielawa, Michael Fiday, and Jorge Liderman have composed works especially for her. <http://www.kihlstedt.net/>

Actress and director **Joan Mankin** has performed with many prestigious institutions, including the American Conservatory Theater, the Center Theater Group in L.A., California Shakespeare Theater, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, San Diego Repertory Theater, and A Traveling Jewish Theater. She has also been a company member of several leading Northern California physical theater ensembles, including the San Francisco Mime Troupe, the Pickle Family Circus, and the Dell'Arte Players Company. She has directed performances for many theater groups, including for the San Francisco New Vaudeville Festival, which performances were made into an HBO special. Joan has also taught extensively in the Bay Area and beyond.

Matthias Bossi is the drummer for Sleepytime Gorilla Museum and was a member of the Grammy-nominated Skeleton Key. He is currently touring with guitarist Fred Frith in his new project, Cosa Brava. In recent years he has contributed to the recordings of John Vanderslice, St. Vincent, and the Tiger Lillies. In the areas of theater and dance, Bossi has worked with the Pickle Family Circus, Oakland Metro Opera, Shotgun Players, Blixa Bargeld, Nanos Operetta, and with choreographers Jo Kreiter, Joe Goode, Deborah Slater, and Shinichi Iova-Koga.

About Rova:Arts

Incorporated in 1985, Rova:Arts, the non-profit umbrella organization of the Rova Saxophone Quartet, is devoted to extending the leading edge of musical expression and related artistic disciplines. Inspired and informed by the work of the Rova Saxophone Quartet, Rova:Arts administers the ensemble's activities, presents work by other forward-looking artists, commissions new works by established and emerging composers, and furthers the public's understanding of adventurous art through education and outreach. In its support of the Rova Saxophone Quartet, Rova:Arts has a long history of fostering creative and often surprising collaborations among Rova and other musicians, ranging from fellow Bay Area-based artists the Kronos Quartet, to jazz saxophone legend Sam Rivers and Burmese percussionist Kyaw Kyaw Naing.

Rova:Arts receives funding from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, The Zellerbach Family Fund, The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, The Wattis Foundation, The NEA, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Pandaemonium was made possible by a generous grant from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

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