



Owen McNally
Riffs: Jazz Notes

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Eclectic Improvisers Release First Disc

The *New Haven Improvisers Collective*, a catalytic force in New Haven's burgeoning music scene, is celebrating the release of its debut disc, "Interference" (NHIC Records), a live recording of its 2007 performance at New Haven's Firehouse 12.

The collective champions what it calls "avant progressive chamber punk jazz."

The seven players, led by *Bob Gorry*, a guitarist/composer with a rock, jazz and experimental music background, return to Firehouse 12 to perform Saturday at 8:30 and 10 p.m., presenting highlights from the new disc and premieres of new works.

A tightly interactive alliance of creative musicians and composers, NHIC includes players from jazz, rock, classical and English folk genres who use experimental approaches.

The troupe's essential elements, according to Gorry, are "interaction, conflict and harmony," a volatile blend that produces a rainbow variety of shifting moods and textures in such extended works as "Quantum Decoherence" and "Chords" as well as in bright, quick mosaics consisting of miniature portraits, including "Beatniks Revolt!" and "Infinity Mirror."

"Quantum Decoherence," the CD's centerpiece, is described this way: "The piece deals with the relationships and entanglements between musicians, the interference of sound and action, science, music and the meaning of life."

NHIC also shows humor, as in its amusing "Oberek Sokkyo." A sparkling, free concoction, it consists of Japanese improvisation seasoned with Eastern Europe and Far Eastern influences.

At the same time, it's delivered with the collective's distinctive approach, which scrutinizes all musical shapes from multiple points of view. NHIC paints in a sonic form of Cubism that, through invention, fragmentation and rearrangement of form, simultaneously depicts many surprising, even revelatory facets of a piece as it unfolds in real time.

Besides Gorry on guitar, NHIC features *Jeff Cedrone*, guitar; *Gabriel Kastelle*, viola; *Paul McGuire*, soprano saxophone; *Carl Testa*, string bass and bass clarinet; *Steve Zieminski*, drums; and *Anne Rhodes*, voice.

Cedrone, the founder of the art-rock trio Greyling, records eclectic rock and experimental film scores and is a major contributor to the NHIC book.

Kastelle is steeped in improvised music and music theater and has played with symphonies and other ensembles.

McGuire, a veteran reed player on the New Haven scene, plays djembe in percussion groups and early woodwinds in Renaissance and assorted folk styles.

Testa, a young composer and emerging voice on bass, bass clarinet and electronics, plays bass with Anthony Braxton in the celebrated instrumentalist/composer's septet and with his 12+1tet and is featured on three of Braxton's latest CD releases.

Zieminski, a multi-percussionist who performs with progressive rock and jazz groups, studies with tabla master Kumar Das.

Rhodes, whose background is in opera and new music, has studied with Braxton, Neely Bruce and Alvin Lucier. Now working on a duo recording with Braxton, she's a member of the new music duo Bruxism and a chorister with the [Connecticut Opera](#).

Tickets to the show are \$10. Information: www.firehouse12.com or 203-785-0468. Firehouse 12 is at 45 Crown St., New Haven.

Information on NHIC: www.nhic-music.org. Copies of NHIC's album "Interference" will be on sale for \$10 at the Firehouse 12 concert and are also available at cdbaby.com and NHIC Records at www.nhic-records.com.