

IN CONCERT

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Kaufmann, Gratkowski, de Joode

Trio of international improvisers includes Amsterdam-based pianist Achim Kaufmann, German multi-reeds player Frank Gratkowski and Dutch bassist Wilbert de Joode. • Western Front, 303 E. 8th Ave. • Nov. 24, 8 p.m. • \$15/\$12, Highlife, Ticketmaster or 604-872-5200

No Translation Required

A fun and slightly irreverent look at opera, musical theatre and a wee bit of jazz. • Kay Meek Centre, 1700 Mathers St. • Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. • \$20/\$15, 604-913-3634

Piling Sand – Piling Stone II

Premiere of Canadian composer André Cormier's *Piling Sand-Piling Stone III* for viola, cello and live electronics

performed by duo Suna nonna. • Blim, 197 E. 17th Ave. • Nov. 24, 8 p.m. • 604-734-4622

Sinfonia, Orchestra of the North Shore

Features soprano Michelle Keople and performers from the Anna Wyman School of Dance. • Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Ave., North Van • Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. • \$18-\$33, 604-984-4484

The Sojourners CD Release

Hold On is the debut recording for the Vancouver-based gospel vocal trio The Sojourners — Will Sanders, Ron Small and Marcus Mosely who are all integral members of Vancouver's premiere gospel choir, The Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir. • St. James Hall, 3214 W. 10th Ave. • Nov. 24, 8 p.m. • \$23/\$20, 604-736-3022

Tony Orlando

Singer best known for his time with the group Dawn in the early 1970s. • Red Robinson Show Theatre, Coquitlam • Nov. 24, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. • \$39.50 at Ticketmaster

The Town Pants – 10th Anniversary Show

Roots-rocking night with celtic rockers the Town Pants and guests Swank and Run GMC. •

Commodore Ballroom • Nov. 24, doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m. • \$12 at Ticketmaster, Zulu, Highlife, Red Cat

VSO – Pictures and Poems: The Music of Mussorgsky, Strauss and Mahler

Elgar Howarth, conductor; Anita Krause, soprano. • Orpheum Theatre • Nov. 24 and 26, 8 p.m. • \$25-\$78 at 604-876-3434 or Ticketmaster

Academic, but passionate

HEAR IT NOW: Celebrate 20 years of extraordinary music

In concert

NOW Orchestra with Amina Claudine Myers

Where: Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St.

When: Tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 (seniors, \$15; students, \$5) at Ticketmaster

BY STUART DERDEYN
ARTS REPORTER



It's all music, says Amina Claudine Myers of the experimental and often improvised pieces she creates.

Two decades ago, Vancouver's New Orchestra Workshop began its Hear It Now concert series of new and improvised music. The freewheeling big band had a decade of performing under its belt and felt it was time to produce a regular annual showcase for West Coast Canadian creative music.

Often written in workshops with collaborators ranging from pianist Marilyn Crispell and trombone ace George Lewis to Grateful Dead affiliate John Oswald, Hear It Now is a key event in the city's annual jazz/new music scene.

This year's edition features special guest organist, composer, arranger and singer Amina Claudine Myers. A longtime member of the legendary Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians in Chicago and of bassist Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, Myers is bringing NOW a gospel-style work that requires a full vocal choir.

Singers Christine Duncan, Phoebe McRae, DB Boyko, Viviane Houle, Peter Hurst and Matthew McTavish join the 15-piece ensemble for this 20th Anniversary show.

"It's interesting making arrangements for this kind of band that still keeps the basic concept of a gospel-influenced

vocal piece intact," says Myers. "I've never written especially for a band to accompany the choir and I do find that some elements of the work favour the use of certain instrumental voices over others. But it's up to the band to figure that out."

"You can't write in the feelings or soul, but I've tried to always bring it out in my writing."

Some critics have suggested that Myers' career has been "avant jazz stigmatized," keeping her bluesy and flowing recordings of the works of such luminaries as Bessie Smith out of wider recognitions. She decries that view.

"I really don't like that at all. Avant or not, to me it's all music. I like to extend the music and let it grow, which is why improvisation is so important."

"When I think avant, it's throwing a piano off of a building. But blues and gospel, rhythm and blues are all made to be extended upon."

On recordings such as those with the searing blues-rock crew Third Rail (bassist Bill Laswell, guitarist James Blood Ulmer, drummer Joseph "Ziggy" Mod-

eliste and Parliament/Funkadelic keyboardist Bernie Worrell), Myers' solo flights on her organ do indeed carry the sound of the blues to an extended funky high.

Conversely, her 1983 album *The Circle of Time* is a tight trio gig that actually sticks to a lot of conventional modal jazz. Her more recent work also brings in elements of modern classical music and even the occasional "high concept."

"A young man in London last year said that in my recent playing I was academic, but passionate. I guess that's OK, but all music involves thinking and feeling. Of course, I don't like the term jazz much either, as it associates this music with speakeasys and lowlifes and something less intelligent. So I guess that academic, but passionate, will do."

Stay tuned to have your brain moved at Hear It Now, I guess.

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Catch Stu's New Music Tuesdays on Global's Morning News at 8:45 a.m., Tuesdays, and Stu's Weekend Fun File on Global's Weekend Morning and Noon News.



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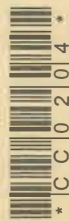
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