

A black and white photograph of Nicole Mitchell, a jazz musician, standing on a beach. She is wearing a dark suit jacket over a vertically striped, high-collared shirt. Her hair is styled in a voluminous, curly updo. She is holding a saxophone in her left hand, which is resting on her hip. The background shows the ocean with waves and a cloudy sky. The overall mood is artistic and serene.

Nicole Mitchell

May 16, 2012, 7 pm
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall
UCSD Department of Music

May 16, 2012

Nicole Mitchell

Duets and Improvisations
Nicole Mitchell and Anthony Davis

intermission

Triple Sunset on GJ 667Cc
Composed by Nicole Mitchell

Arc of O
Composed by Nicole Mitchell

Oboe / Flute 2 Berglind Tomasdottir

Clarinet Curt Miller

Bass clarinet Adam Tinkle

Saxophone Drew Cecatto

Trumpet Yvette Jackson

Horn Nicolee Kuester

Violin Batya MacAdam-Somer

Violin David Morales Boroff

Viola Travis Maril

Cello Ashley Walters

Bass Adam Goodwin

Piano Josh Weinstein

Electronics Cooper Baker

Drumset Leah Bowden

Percussion Louise Devenish

Harp Tasha Smith Godinez

PROGRAM NOTE - ARC OF O

Arc of O explores the primordial meaning of circles, rotation, beginnings and otherness. On an emotional level, *Arc of O* plays with the universal expression of "Oh!"--surprise, realization, anger, amazement and joy. We recognize the symbol of the "arc" in the branches of trees, the shape of the sky, the passageways of thoughts moving through our brain, and the rivers and streams craved through sand and rock by water." For many, the symbol "O" represents zero, nothingness, and otherness, but "O" is also the dark and fertile emptiness of living space from which all creativity arises. The *Arc of O* is a sound vessel to celebrate the source of creativity, where we can open the door of the vortex to visit many different environments. The "Arc" also represents a vessel or ship. Pivoting from one sound to the next, *Arc of O* is a celebration of diversity of ideas, textures and musical landscapes.

Arc of O was commissioned by the Chicago Jazz Festival for an 18 piece ensemble, and premiered at Chicago's Pritzker Stage in Millennium Park in September 2010. It was performed again at the "Made in Chicago" Festival in Poznan, Poland with the An_Arche Ensemble, December 2010.

--Nicole Mitchell

NICOLE MITCHELL

Nicole Mitchell is an instrumentalist, composer, bandleader and an educator known for her improvisation and technique on the flute—repeatedly cited by *DownBeat* Critics Poll as top flutist and noted by the Jazz Journalists Association as “Flutist of the Year” in the last few years. As the founder of Black Earth Ensemble and Black Earth Strings, she reaches across genres, integrating new ideas with moments in the legacy of jazz, gospel, experimentalism, pop and African percussion through albums such as *Black Unstoppable* (Delmark, 2007), *Awakening* (Delmark, 2011), and *Xenogenesis Suite: A Tribute to Octavia Butler* (Firehouse 12, 2008), which received commissioning support from Chamber Music America’s New Jazz Works. She composes for contemporary ensembles of varied instrumentation and size (from solo to orchestra and big band) while incorporating improvisation and a wide aesthetic expression. Mitchell’s compositions bridge sound worlds between the familiar and the unknown. As a flutist, she develops new improvisational languages through the coupling of her voice with the instrument.

Mitchell served as the first woman president of Chicago’s Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), and in recognition of her impact within the Chicago music and arts education communities, she was named “Chicagoan of the Year” in 2006 by the *Chicago Tribune*. A recipient of the Alpert Award in the Arts (2011), she has been commissioned by Chicago’s Museum of Contemporary Art, the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Jazz Festival, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Maggio Fiorentino Chamber Orchestra (Florence, Italy) and the Chicago Sinfonietta. In 2009, she created *Honoring Grace: Michelle Obama* for the Jazz Institute of Chicago. Nicole has been a faculty member at the Vancouver Creative Music Institute, the Sherwood Flute Institute (Chicago), Banff International Jazz Workshop (Canada) and University of Illinois: Chicago. She is currently an assistant professor in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology at the University of California, Irvine.

Mitchell has worked with contemporary musicians including Anthony Braxton, George E. Lewis, Steve Coleman, James Newton, Archie Shepp, Anthony Davis, Bill Dixon, Roscoe Mitchell, Muhal Richard Abrams, Ed Wilkerson, David Boykin, Rob Mazurek, and Hamid Drake. She has been a featured flute soloist with Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta Orchestra, AACM Great Black Music Ensemble, ICI Creative Orchestra (Germany), Vancouver NOW Orchestra, and the Ramsey Lewis Freedom Ensemble.

Her recent composition, *Flight for Freedom for Creative Flute and Orchestra, a Tribute to Harriet Tubman*, premiered with the Chicago Composers' Orchestra in December 2011. In April 2012, Mitchell was named among the first class of Doris Duke Artists, a nominated award and new initiative of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. She plays a Powell Conservatory flute made specifically for her.