

UC San Diego | Division of Arts & Humanities | Department of Music

# Gratkowski-Brown-Winant Trio

December 14, 2014 | 7:00 pm | Conrad Prebys Music Center, Concert Hall

**Frank Gratkowski**, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax  
**Chris Brown**, piano and live electronics  
**William Winant**, vibraphone and percussion

The trio was founded in 2006 by these musicians whose careers straddle the contemporary classical, electronic music, jazz, and improvisation fields. Despite their work in other contexts with fully notated music, their main interest as an ensemble is in instant composition, improvising new music with clear structures collectively on the fly. They employ extended techniques on their instruments in combination with interactive electronic signal processing to create a sound-world that transcends its instrumental sources through timbral and temporal transformations.

Their first CD *Wake* was released in 2008 on Red Toucan Records. In 2009 they were featured at the Donaueschinger Musiktage in Germany, and their double-CD *Vermilion Traces* documenting this performance along with a recording at the famed SWR radio studio in Baden-Baden was released in 2012 on Leo Records.



[music.ucsd.edu/concerts](http://music.ucsd.edu/concerts)

**Frank Gratkowski** was born in Hamburg in 1963, started playing the saxophone at age 16 and studied at the Hamburg and Cologne Conservatories of Music. His saxophone teachers included Charlie Mariano, Sal Nistico and Steve Lacy.

His first solo CD *Artikulationen* was the 1991 prizewinner in the Musik Kreative contest. Since 1992 he has been working in a duo with the pianist Georg Graewe, often extended through the participation of additional musicians such as drummer Paul Lovens and bassist John Lindberg. In 1995 he founded the Frank Gratkowski Trio with Dieter Manderscheid (Germany), bass, and Gerry Hemingway (USA), drums. In 2000 the trio was joined by Dutch trombonist

Wolter Wierbos. Since 2003 the quartet began appearing as a Double Quartet with the addition Tobi Delius, Herb Robertson, Wilbert DeJooode and Michael Vatcher. In 2005 Gratkowski was awarded the SWR Jazzprize. He has played on numerous international Jazz and New Music Festivals including Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, New York, Seattle,

Quebec, Barcelona, Madrid, Lithuania, Warsaw, Zagreb, Prague, Bratislava, Sofia, Bucharest, Odessa, Belgrad, Huddersfield, London and Roma. He has taught saxophone and ensemble workshops at the Cologne, Berlin and Arnhem Conservatories of Music. He has released more than 20 CDs under his own name.

<http://www.gratkowski.com>

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**Chris Brown**, composer, pianist, and electronic musician, creates music for acoustic instruments with interactive electronics, for computer networks, and for improvising ensembles. Collaboration and improvisation are consistent themes in his work, along with the invention and performance of new electronic instruments and software. These range from electro-acoustic instruments (“Gazamba”, 1982), to acoustic instrument transformation systems (“Lava”, 1992), and audience interactive FM radio installations (“Transmissions”, 2004). He is a founding member of The HUB, the pioneering network music ensemble, and has composed many interactive works for the percussionist William Winant (Iconicities, New World Records.) His most recent music explores microtonal tunings, including *6Primes*, for piano in 13-limit just intonation, *Arcade* for string quartet, and *Ragamala Chiaroscuro*, for wind trio. As a performer he has recorded music by Henry Cowell, Luc Ferrari, José Maceda, John Zorn, David Rosenboom, Larry Ochs, Glenn Spearman, and Wadada Leo Smith; as an improviser he has recorded with Pauline Oliveros, Fred Frith, Rova Saxophone Quartet, Ikue Mori, Biggi Vinkeloe, Don Robinson, and Van-Anh Vo, among many others. Recordings are available on New World, Tzadik, Pogus, Intakt, Rastascan, Ecstatic Peace, Red Toucan, SIRR, Leo, and Artifact labels. He is currently a Professor of Music at Mills College and Co-Director of the Center for Contemporary Music (CCM).

<http://www.cbmuse.com>

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**William Winant** has performed with some of the most innovative and creative musicians of our time, including John Cage, Iannis Xenakis, Keith Jarrett, Anthony Braxton, James Tenney, Cecil Taylor, George Lewis, Steve Reich and Musicians, Jean-Philippe Collard, Frederic Rzewski, Ursula Oppens, Joan LaBarbara, Oingo Boingo, and the Kronos String Quartet. He is principal percussionist with the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and the John Zorn Chamber Ensemble. Since 1995 he has been the percussionist with the avant-rock band Mr. Bungle, has made two recordings (“Disco Volante” and “California” on Warner Brothers), and has toured throughout the world with the group.

In March of 1997 he participated in the world premiere of Lou Harrison’s quintet *Rhymes with Silver* featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Mark Morris Dance Group, and has toured the piece throughout the United States and Great Britain.

Many composers have written works for him, including John Cage, Lou Harrison, John Zorn, Peter Garland, Alvin Curran, Chris Brown, David Rosenboom, Larry Polansky, Gordon Mumma, Alvin Lucier, Terry Riley, Fred Frith, Somei Satoh, and Wadada Leo Smith. Mr. Winant has been featured as a guest artist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (under the direction of Pierre Boulez), the San Francisco Symphony, and the Berkeley Symphony, as well as at Cabrillo Festival, Ravinia Festival, Salzburg Festival, Holland Festival, Ojai Festival, All Tomorrow’s Parties, Taktlos, Other Minds, Lincoln Center, Royal Festival Hall, Library of Congress, The Barbican, and Brooklyn Academy of Music. For ten years he was principal percussionist with the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra (Dennis Russell Davies, director), and timpanist with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra 1985-1989 (Nicholas McGegan, director). He is a Visiting Lecturer at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and teaches at Mills College and the University of California at Berkeley. For eight years Mr. Winant was Artist-in-Residence at Mills College with the critically acclaimed Abel-Steinberg-Winant Trio. Formed in 1984, the ASW Trio has premiered over 25 new works for violin, piano, and percussion at major festivals and recitals throughout the world. Their recordings can be heard on the New Albion, Tzadik, and CRI/New World labels.

<http://www.williamwinant.com>