

# COMMUNE

a chamber vibraphone concerto by Stuart Saunders Smith  
world premiere performance  
4.28.2017 / 7 PM  
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

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This concert-length performance will not have an intermission.

Commune #1 – vibraphone, flute, piano  
Commune #2 – vibraphone, soprano saxophone, double bass  
Commune #3 – vibraphone, violin, cello  
Commune #4 – conclusion

Berndt Thurner, solo vibraphone

Michael Matsuno, flute  
Ariana Warren, soprano saxophone  
Batya MacAdam-Somer, violin  
Eric Moore, cello  
Matt Kline, double bass  
Kyle Adam Blair, piano  
James Beauton, percussion  
Daniel King, percussion



### **Note from the composer:**

I live in the northeastern part of the United States, in the state of Vermont. In this state, all the communities are organized in communes. We govern ourselves by sharing our thoughts in a Town Meeting, and, after debate, we vote on legislation both large and small. The decisions made by the commune have the force of law. Therefore, we act in a state of communion, that is, we share our thoughts, one to the many, in order to move to solve our collective problems.

In my composition "Commune" all the musicians have equal influence in the structuring of the music. This concerto for vibraphone does not place the soloist in an heroic, mythical state, but rather, the soloist is one of many sharing musical viewpoints. Like a Town Meeting, one person may speak more than another, but that does not make one more important than another. Further, by analogy, "Commune" is at the doorstep of the concept of collective ownership.

Since 1970 all of the music I compose is based in melody, harmony, and counterpoint. Levels of performer influence range from fixed forms to mobile forms.

--Stuart Saunders Smith

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### **Berndt Thurner, percussion**

Living in Vienna, Austria.

Studied percussion at the Carinthian Conservatory in Klagenfurt and finished the study with diploma. Engaged with studies of jazz and improvisation. Passionate traveller to regions all over the world, bringing along impressions and instruments which influence his music.

By getting a two-year scholarship from the Federal State government of Carinthia, Thurner completed his studies at the Sweelinck Conservatorium Amsterdam and graduated as "uitvoerend musicus".

Appearances in important European Festivals as a soloist and chamber musician such as Wien modern, Holland festival, IGNM World Music Days and many others. He plays in different formations of chamber music and as a soloist and is member of the ensemble *phace:contemporary music*.

Berndt Thurner is working on a project called „Night Suite“. Five nights of vibraphone solo music composed by the US-American composer Stuart Saunders Smith in close cooperation with Berndt Thurner.

### **Stuart Saunders Smith, composer**

Stuart Saunders Smith's compositions fall into four areas of creative research:

- Inventing music of extreme rhythmic and melodic complexity
- Making musical mobiles where there is no fixed musical score but rather instrumental parts that freely interact
- Composing for spoken texts
- Creating trans-media systems for groups of performance artists (dancers, mimes, actors, etc.).

Smith's music is regularly performed throughout North America, Western Europe, and has had notable performances in Asia. His music is recorded on O.O. Discs, Capstone Records, and on European labels in Austria, France, and Germany. He has received the East/West Artist Award, the Maryland State Artists Fellowship, the Pittsburgh Film Forum Grant, the National Endowment for the Arts Composer's Fellowship, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts Master Artist Award. Smith's music is published by Sonic Art Editions. Articles on Stuart Saunders Smith's music have appeared in Percussive Notes Research Edition, Perspectives of New Music, Interface, and Ex Tempore. In 1997 The Music of Stuart of Saunders Smith, by John Welsh, was published by Excelsior Press, NYC, NY.