

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing: **BRAXTON75 in the Bay Area**
Two Concerts this February in Berkeley and Oakland
Celebrating Anthony Braxton's 75th Birthday

Two ensembles, including many longtime Braxton collaborators, alums and former students, perform works spanning decades of the composer's vast musical output

Saturday, February 1, 8:30pm

Do-Over Music Series #14: The duo. B. Experimental Band
plays Anthony Braxton

Chris Jonas, guest director

Temescal Arts Center

511 48th Street, Oakland CA

\$15 Admission (at the door)

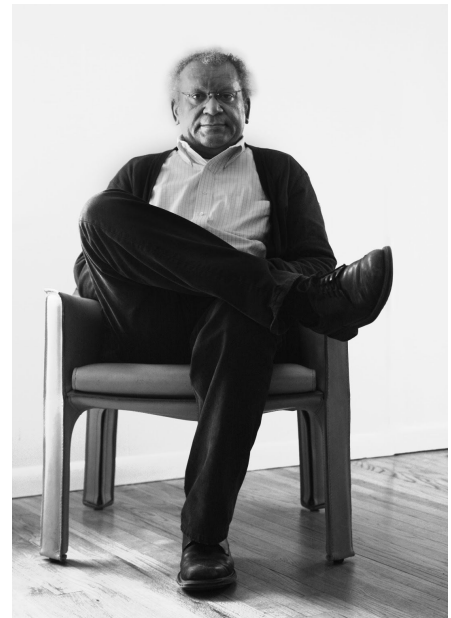
Sunday, February 16, 5pm

AB West 8+1, with Del Sol String Quartet and Goggle Sax Quartet

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)

2155 Center Street, Berkeley CA

Free with \$14 museum admission



Berkeley and Oakland, CA, January 8, 2020—Creative musicians of the San Francisco Bay Area celebrate the music, life and enduring influence of visionary composer, bandleader, multi-instrumentalist and musical thinker Anthony Braxton in **two concerts of his music** this February. Santa Fe saxophonist, community organizer and Braxton collaborator **Chris Jonas** visits the Bay Area as a special guest in two performances presented as part of Braxton75, an initiative of **Braxton's Tri-centric Foundation** that has curated and helped to facilitate performances in musical communities across the globe in honor of the composer's 75th birthday year. On Saturday, February 1 at 8:30pm in Temescal Arts Center in Oakland, the **duo B. Experimental Band**, co-led by **bassist Lisa Mezzacappa and drummer Jason Lewis**, invites Jonas to lead the ensemble as guest director for an all-Braxton program performed by a 25+-piece ensemble comprised of both veteran voices and young talents in the Bay's improvised music community. On Sunday February 16 at 5pm, Jonas leads the **AB West 8+1** ensemble, an asymmetrical "double quartet plus one" grouping that combines **Goggle Sax Quartet** (Dan Plonsey, Cory Wright, Chris Jonas, Randy McKean), with **Del Sol String Quartet**, plus **bassist Lisa Mezzacappa**, for a program of Braxton works performed in the spacious atrium of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in Downtown Berkeley.

Anthony Braxton was a Professor of Music at Mills College in Oakland from 1985 to 1990, where he developed lasting musical relationships with fellow faculty members William Winant and David Rosenboom, and had a profound impact on a generation of Bay Area performer-composer-improvisers. Many of his students, such as Gino Robair, John Shiurba, Dan Plonsey, Matt Ingalls, Randy McKean, and numerous others, went on to become linchpins of the Bay Area creative music community. Robair led a (now legendary) large ensemble performance in honor of Braxton's 60th birthday at the beloved, now-defunct performance space 21 Grand in Oakland 15 years ago; it is in that spirit that these 2020 events honor the lingering spirit of Braxton's music and creative ethos in the Bay Area music community.

Both February programs will feature well-known and rarely-performed Braxton works, some of which have never been recorded. The BAMPFA concert will feature elements from three Braxton compositions that have only been performed once or twice: *Composition 18* (for String Quartet), *Composition 37* (for Sax Quartet), and *Composition 265* (2nd species Ghost Trance Music). The Ghost Trance composition will be used as a grid or pegboard on top of which the ensemble will pin elements of other compositions. The Temescal concert will revolve around the (unrecorded) work *Ghost Trance Music No. 246*, and will include the multi-movement work *No. 173*, a series of marches that are part of the No. 40 collection of works, and familiar works from Braxton's quartet recordings such as compositions 6F, 69q and 23c. **The duo B. Experimental Band will reprise its performance the following day, playing a shorter set with a smaller ensemble, on Sunday, February 2 at 4:30pm in the CA Jazz Conservatory (CJC)'s Rendon Hall, 2040 Addison St., Berkeley. The Braxton music will provide the opening set for the weekly performance of the Electric Squeezebox Orchestra, the CJC's resident big band.**



About the Artists

[Chris Jonas](#) is a Santa Fe-based composer, saxophone player and video artist. As an instrumentalist and composer/conductor, he has performed, recorded and toured internationally with many of today's most adventurous artists, working extensively with Anthony Braxton, Cecil Taylor, William Parker, Del Sol String Quartet, TILT Brass, the Crossing Choir and others. Jonas is a United States Artists fellow and a winner of the 2012 Meet the Composer/Commissioning USA award for GARDEN, his ongoing series of live music and

transmedia works. He is Executive Director of the New Mexico arts and social justice non-profit, Littlelobe and is Vice President of the Tri-Centric Foundation, committed to the work and legacy of Anthony Braxton. This fall, along with Braxton and James Fei, Jonas was conductor for Braxton's 6-hour, 63-person orchestra project, *Sonic Genome*, at the 2019 Berlin Jazz Festival.

San Francisco-based [Del Sol String Quartet](#) (Sam Weiser and Ben Kreith, *violin*; Charlton Lee, *viola*; Kathryn Bates, *cello*). is a leading force in 21st century chamber music—whether introducing Ben Johnston's microtonal Americana at the Library of Congress, taking Aaron Garcia's gun-violence memorial to the streets of the Mission District, or exploring Andean soundscapes with Gabriela Lena Frank and traditional musicians. Del Sol has premiered well over 100 works by composers including Terry Riley, Gabriela Lena Frank, Frederic Rzewski, Ben Johnston, Chinariy Ung, Tania León, Theresa Wong, Mohammed Fairouz and Peter Sculthorpe; many of these works are included on the quartet's nine critically-acclaimed albums. Del Sol and Chris Jonas have worked together for the past 12 years, creating the immersive video and music piece *Garden I: Night*.

Now in its 32nd year, **Goggle Saxophone Quartet's** nucleus formed at Mills College in Oakland, California by then-grad students Randy McKean and Dan Plonsey. The group has always functioned as something of a composer/performer's workshop group, developing original compositions, featuring quirky rhythmic schemes and extended techniques. Chris Jonas joined in 1989, bringing a love of active, overlapping structure and melody. By the 2000s, Jonas' former Oberlin schoolmate and multi-instrumentalist Cory Wright was pulled into the orbit as part of a touring saxophone sextet Plonsey formed to perform his music. After a hiatus, the quartet realigned as Goggle in 2013 to continue their quest for startling musical visions. Their new album, *Eeyahdi*, is released this spring.



The [duo B. Experimental Band](#), co-led by bassist Lisa Mezzacappa and drummer Jason Levis, explores the rich terrain where composition and improvisation meet. The 13-to-15-piece ensemble, which has a core personnel that varies slightly from performance to performance, was founded in December 2018, and performs every-other-month at Temescal Arts Center in

Oakland. Repertoire has included long-form compositions by Levis and Mezzacappa, conducted improvisations, graphic scores, and this fall, an evening-length version of the Art Ensemble of Chicago's *People in Sorrow*, performed at the SF Music Day 2019 festival. This December the ensemble celebrated its first birthday with a continuous 4-hour concert installation.

The ensemble will be expanded to include upwards of 20 musicians for this Braxton75 concert:

Polly Moller Springhorn, flutes; **Matt Ingalls**, clarinets; **Rachel Condry**, clarinets
Cory Wright, woodwinds; **Bruce Ackley**, woodwinds; **Randy McKean**, woodwinds
Dan Plonsey, woodwinds; **Tom Weeks**, alto saxophone; **Kasey Knudsen**, alto saxophone
Michael Zelner, alto saxophone and Bb clarinet; **Daniel Goldberg**, tenor saxophone
Steve Adams, alto saxophone/electronics; **Erika Oba**, flute/keyboard; **Ian Carey**, trumpet;
Ron Heglin, trombone/euphonium; **Gabby Fluke-Mogul**, violin; **Kevin CK Lo**, violin;
Juan Hernandez, guitar; **John Finkbeiner**, guitar; **Brett Carson**, keyboard;
Kjell Nordeson, vibraphone; **Lisa Mezzacappa**, acoustic bass; **Andrew Harlan**, acoustic bass;
Safa Shokrai, acoustic bass; **Suki O'Kane**, percussion; **Dillon Vado**, percussion; **Jordan Glenn**,
drums; **Jason Levis**, drums

[Anthony Braxton](#) (born 1945), the Chicago-born composer and multi-instrumentalist, is recognized as one of the most important musicians, educators, and creative thinkers of the past 50 years. He is highly esteemed in the experimental music community for the revolutionary quality of his work and for the mentorship and inspiration he has provided to generations of younger musicians. Drawing upon a disparate mix of influences from John Coltrane to Karlheinz Stockhausen, Braxton has created a unique musical system that celebrates the concept of global creativity and our shared humanity. His work examines core principles of improvisation, structural navigation and ritual engagement—innovation, spirituality, and intellectual investigation.

From his early work as a pioneering solo performer in the late 1960s through to his eclectic experiments on Arista Records in the 1970s, his landmark quartet of the 1980s, and more recent endeavors, such as his cycle of Trillium operas and the day-long, installation-based Sonic Genome Project, his vast body of work is unparalleled. Braxton's many awards include a 1981 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1994 MacArthur Fellowship, a 2013 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a 2014 NEA Jazz Master Award, and honorary doctorates from Université de Liège (Belgium) and New England Conservatory (USA).

[more]

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

CONCERT: Jazz/Classical/Experimental

**Braxton75: The duo. B. Experimental Band plays Anthony Braxton
Chris Jonas, *guest director***

DATE Saturday, February 1, 8:30pm

LOCATION Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th Street, Oakland CA

TICKETS \$15 Admission (at the door, seating is very limited)

INFO www.temescalartcenter.org

CONCERT: Jazz/Classical/Experimental

duo. B. Experimental Band + Electric Squeezebox Orchestra

DATE Sunday, February 2, 4:30pm

LOCATION CA Jazz Conservatory, Rendon Hall, 2040 Addison Street, Berkeley CA

TICKETS \$10-15 Admission

INFO <https://cjc.edu/>

CONCERT: Jazz/Classical/Experimental

Braxton75: AB West 8+1

with Del Sol String Quartet and Goggle Sax Quartet

DATE Sunday, February 16, 5pm

LOCATION Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), 2155 Center Street,
Berkeley CA

TICKETS Free with \$14 museum admission

INFO www.bampfa.org

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