



Nick Didkovsky / Punos Music

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Nick Didkovsky is a guitarist, composer, and software programmer. In 1983, he founded the avant-rock septet Doctor Nerve. He presently resides in New York City, where he composes for Doctor Nerve and other ensembles, creates music software, and teaches computer music composition at New York University. He is the primary developer of the computer music language Java Music Specification Language (JMSL), which is used by composers world-wide. He is director of bioinformatics for the GENSAT Project at The Rockefeller University, and develops software at a developmental neurobiology lab there.

Ensembles

Vomit Fist (2013 – present) – grindcore metal band featuring Leo Didkovsky (son) on drums. Composes original music. Record released 2014. www.vomitfist.com

Häßliche Luftmasken (2011- present) – metal band with Josh Lopes (gtr), Samuel Smith (bass), and Jon Lango (drums). Composes original music.

Doctor Nerve (1983 – present) – Composer led ensemble, Doctor Nerve joins the furious energy of rock with intricate composition, some of which finds its origins in rich software systems of his own design. Six CD releases, many performances world-wide.

Zinc Nine Psychedelic (2005-present) – improvising ensemble with Kevin Norton (percussion), Dave Ballou (trumpet and electronics), and Nick Didkovsky (electric guitar)

Bone (2003), trio with bassist Hugh Hopper (Soft Machine), drummer John Roulat (Forever Einstein), and Didkovsky on guitar. Produces CD. See Copland award below.

Shadow Puppies (2003 - present), trio with guitarist Hans Tammen and real-time video artist Kurt Ralske. Uses custom JMSL/JSyn software with electric guitar.

Fred Frith Guitar Quartet (1989-present) – FFGQ pushes boundaries of electric guitar with intricate composition and improvisation. Didkovsky has contributed numerous compositions to the ensemble.

Body Parts (2000-present), duo with drummer Guigou Chenevier (Etron Fou, Volapuk). Body Parts tours Europe regularly, recently performed at Jazz À Mulhouse, and has released its first CD on the French CCAM label.

Commissions & Compositions

Preach Now / Spank Not Death – for saxophone and drum set (2015). Commissioned by Patchwork Ensemble

Petromyzontiformes – duo and trio compositions for electric guitars and ‘cello. Premiered 2015 Spectrum NYC.

She Is Carried By Light – for electric guitar and piano. Premiered Nov 2015 by James Moore and Kathleen Supove.

Evoke Amorphous Majesty – for electric guitar and piano. Premiered Nov 2015 by James Moore and Kathleen Supove.

The music of Vomit Fist, arranged for chamber ensemble - Performed by Loadbang, Mary Rowell, and Geoffrey Burselson. Premiered Nov 2015

Petromyzontiformes VI – for trombone quartet, baritone guitar, bass guitar, and electric guitar. Performed by Kevin Hufnagel, Samuel Smith, Nick Didkovsky, and The Guidonian Hand.

Each Tick of the Living – for Glass Farm Ensemble. Premiered 2008.

Human Dog – for ETHEL string quartet and rock quartet. Premiered 2007

Rain on a Frail Cutie – new commission for California Ear Unit, premiered in March 21, 2005

Stink Up! (Evolved Form) (2004), for brass ensemble and drum set. Commissioned by Tilt Brass Band.

Birds by their Feet, Men by their Tongue (2004), for chamber ensemble. Commissioned by New Century Players for premiere season at the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theatre in Los Angeles.

A Bright Moon Makes a Little Daytime (2003), for solo guitar and electronics. Commissioned by Marco Cappelli. Premiered Nov 2003 in Napoli, Italy.

Ice Cream Time (2003) , for Electric Guitar, laptop, live sampling, and saxophone quartet. Commissioned by ARTE Saxophone Quartet, premiered April 11, 2003 in Liestal, Switzerland by Didkovsky, Thomas Dimuzio, and ARTE Sax Quartet.

Tube Mouth Bow String (2002), for string quartet and live electronics. String quartet using four talkboxes and four harmonizer pedals. Commissioned for Sirius String Quartet with support from Meet the Composer, Commissioning Music USA. Premiered June 25, 2002 at Pace University, Alliance for Downtown New York and Delta Present: The Lunch Box Series 2002

Slim in Beaten Dreamers (2002), for brass quintet and percussion. Suite in 15 parts. Commissioned for Meridian Arts Ensemble with support from The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. Premiered June 6, 2002 at June In Buffalo Festival.

Zero Waste (2002), for piano and computer-generated score. Composed for Kathleen Supove, Zero Waste is a software system that continuously transcribes live piano performance, generating a score to be sight-read. Premiered November 11, 2002, Frederick Lowe Theatre, New York University

Ereia, for Doctor Nerve and Sirius String Quartet. Commissioned with support from Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust and the Jerome Foundation. Premiered May 1997, FIMAV Festival.

Caught By The Sky With Wire, for percussion and 'cello. Commissioned by Steven Schick and Maya Beiser Project. Broadcast from The Kitchen on John Schaeffer's New Sounds Live, released on OO Disks.

Amalia's Secret. Commissioned by Bang On A Can for Bang On A Can All-Stars. Recorded for SONY Classical. Numerous performances worldwide.

Television

Law and Order, Special Victims Unit (2001) – on-camera performance of Ereia (see Commissions above), on this network television show.

Online interactive software instruments

Birthday Gift for Michael Lytle (2004). Interactive online software instrument based on the granularization of an audio file of a bass clarinet improvisation. <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/lytle/>

Birthday Gift for Larry Polansky (2004). Interactive online software instrument based on problem solving using Polansky's theory of combinatorial contours. <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/HBLP/>

Online Rhythmicon (2003), commissioned by Minnesota Public Radio. A software realization of an early electronic music instrument, The Rhythmicon (1930) designed by Henry Cowell and built by Leon Theremin. <http://musicmavericks.org/rhythmicon>

Sabbath Bride (2003) – composed by Jody Diamond, arranged/programmed by Didkovsky. Self-modifying notated score, wherein Diamond's original melody is gradually replaced by ghost notes. See <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/sabbathbride/sabbathbride.html>

Hell Café (2002) – techno/electronic pulse based instrument. Originally designed for a musical performance piece The Technophobe and the Madman (an Internet2 collaboration between New York University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute). <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/hellcafe>

What Sheep Herd (Why Don't You Write Me?) (2001) – Algorithmic instrument based on a melody by Paul Simon. <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/whydonyouwriteme>

A Loop's A Loop's A Loop's A... (2000) Dedicated to the tape loop work of C.W. Vrtacek. <http://www.punosmusic.com/pages/aloopsaloopsa>

Awards

USArtists International (2011) – Doctor Nerve's engagement at Zappanale Festival was supported by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Aaron Copland Recording Fund (2004) - Awarded recording grant to support string quartets cd (Pogus Productions) with Sirius String Quartet.

Aaron Copland Recording Fund (2002) - Awarded recording grant to support "Bone, Uses Wrist Grab" (Cuneiform Records), a collection of new music for trio with bassist Hugh Hopper, percussionist John Roulat, and Didkovsky on guitar.

New York Foundation for the Arts (1997) – received fellowship in field of computer arts

Aaron Copland Recording Fund (1997) – Awarded recording grant to support recording of Erieta (Cuneiform Records), composed for and recorded by Doctor Nerve and Sirius String Quartet.

Arts International (various years) – supported numerous performances at international festivals by Doctor Nerve, Sirius String Quartet, Body Parts.

Lectures / Residencies

Java One Conference, San Francisco (2003)– Presentation on making music with the Java Programming Language

2003 NEWMUSIC@ECU Festival – seminar on computer music performance and composition with JMSL/JSyn

Dartmouth College (2002) – residency, worked closely with students, lectured/demonstrated Java Music Specification Language.

Circuits: The Governor's Conference on Arts and Technology, in Palisades, NY in March, 1998. Premiered JMSL

Publications

Didkovsky, Nick; International Computer Music Conference, 2004 (Proceedings) – presented two papers on Java Music Specification Language (JMSL)

Didkovsky, Nick, Burk, Phil; International Computer Music Conference, 2001 (Proceedings) – presented paper on Java Music Specification Language (JMSL), a composition and performance toolkit designed by Didkovsky and Phil Burk.

Didkovsky, Nick; Lottery: Toward a Unified Rational Strategy for Cooperative Music Making (Leonardo Music Journal, Vol 2, No. 1, pp. 3-12, 1992) - The theory, design, implementation, and performance of Didkovsky's computer music piece "Lottery", based on Prisoner's Dilemma Game Theory

Didkovsky, Nick; Computer-Generated Composition for Doctor Nerve (1989 Conference Proceedings of the Small Computers in the Arts Network (SCAN) in Philadelphia, PA)

Gann, Kyle, American Music in the Twentieth Century (Schirmer) – Didkovsky's composition styles and work with Doctor Nerve covered here.

S. Gong et al., "A gene expression atlas of the central nervous system based on bacterial artificial chromosomes," Nature, 425:917-925, October 30, 2003.

Education

1988-1990 – New York University, Masters in Music Technology

1978-1980 – Brown University, BA Mathematics

1976-1978 – Dartmouth College