

- *Light, microscopic textures, rapid and evanescent. The album sounds fresh as paint.*

Nate Dorward,  
Paris Transatlantic

# Jeff Arnal & Dietrich Eichmann

percussion and piano  
from New York and Berlin

- *Solid and imaginative improvisation, fully articulate in form while playing completely spontaneously. As the pieces unfold, there are wonderful surprises, disconcerting moments, and, of course, eternal movement through the terrain of jazz, classical, and other musics that serve as touchstones for their joint creations.*

Thom Jurek, All Music Guide

- *Eichmann and Arnal cover a great deal of territory. Their intimacy with their instruments allows them to bring forth an array of fresh, unpredictable sounds; the music is alternately dissonant, meditative, industrial, lilting, explosive, and stark.*

Florence Wetzel, All About Jazz, NYC

- *A solid, unspoken understanding when they play together that makes the music seem much more like a cohesive composition than some freeform ruckus... The compositions and improvisation are wonderful, but the interplay is gorgeous.*

Ryan McDermott, onefinalnote

...international press reviewing the duet's debut CD "the temperature dropped again" released in 2004 on Leo Records (LR 390).

- *This is the most impressive and conceptually far-reaching sounding of post-Cecil piano I've heard in the past whenever; a major statement from a profoundly singular stylist.*

volcanic tongue

- *Magnificent slab! Simultaneously red hot and icy cool, this is a record of two exceptionally gifted artists coming together to make a joyful noise.*

outer space gamelan

- *Dietrich Eichmann's holistic vision of the piano – treating it as an object that isn't simply reducible to keys, pads and strings – has resulted in one of the most convincing rethinks of the instrument's various percussive and tonal possibilities since Cecil Taylor. Composer Eichmann only returned to free improvisation during the past five years but his recent recordings – particularly the duo sets with percussionist Jeff Arnal issued by Leo Records and Editions Brokenresearch – display an appetite for really driving the form.*

David Keenan, The Wire

...and reviewing the vinyl LP „Live in Hamburg“ released in 2007 on brokenresearch (br017).

In spite of the geographical distance this duet has been quite busy since their very first encounter in 2002. Major appearances include Goethe-Institute New York City, ZeitGeist Gallery Cambridge/MA, Improvised and Otherwise, Brooklyn/NY, DeSingel Antwerp, Belgium, a two-hour live broadcast concert at Radio Bremen, Germany.

They received fellowships for the *International Music Omi Summer Residency 2003* in the historic Hudson Valley, NY. The debut CD *the temperature dropped again*, published on *Leo Records* in 2004, has been followed up by an LP release on Detroit-based label *brokenresearch*, in 2007.

A rare collaboration between a classical composer and a jazz/improv drummer, Arnal and Eichmann belong to a new generation of musicians and are definitely counted amongst the most versatile personalities in contemporary avant-garde music. This exciting encounter brings into being a unique dimension of music with fresh sounds of existential beauty. Their spontaneous improvisations tend to emerge as structures creating sometimes tense, sometimes dark, even disturbing but always gripping music.

# Jeff Arnal & Dietrich Eichmann

**Jeff Arnal** began playing percussion at age thirteen. He studied composition with Stuart Saunders Smith, a major mentor for his understanding of improvisation as composition, at the University of Maryland. At Bennington College he studied percussion with Milford Graves and holds a MFA in Music and Improvisation.

Arnal frequently performs and collaborates with a wide range of musicians and choreographers in the U.S. and Europe. In 2007 *Drifting Awake*, his multi-media installation piece premiered at The Chocolate Factory Theater in Long Island City, NY. Other recent performances include: *Roulette* (NYC), *Music at the Anthology* (NYC), *The Music Gallery* (Toronto) and *Hallwalls* (Buffalo), and *Vision Festival XIII* (NYC). He has received grants and fellowships from ASCAP, Brooklyn Arts Council, Meet the Composer and Art Omi International. His music can be heard on a number of independent record labels; releases include *Dog Day* with Aaron Dugan (C3R 2007), *MEJA* with Michael Evans (C3R 2006), *Tripwire* (oaksmus 2001 and Creative Sources 2006), *Transit* (Clean Feed 2005).

"Percussionist Jeff Arnal's balletic sense of time and imaginative deployment of colour have combined into a highly original concept" (Philip Clark, *The Wire*)

**Dietrich Eichmann's** works as a composer have been performed on international festivals by renowned ensembles. As a pianist and improviser he is actively involved in many international collaborations and as an organizer he runs the *oaksmus* CD label and produced the associated concert series in Berlin.

His roots in jazz and improvised music combine with his radical aesthetic approach to musical composition resulting in the unmistakable language of an unusual spirit. Recent works include a concerto for Peter Brötzmann and the Ensemble Modern, "Prayer to the Unknown Gods of the People Without Rights". Currently, he works with Ensemble Modern's bassoonist, Johannes Schwarz, researching instrumental techniques and live electronics. Eichmann's work as an improvising pianist, recently as the leader of the Dietrich Eichmann Ensemble, is increasingly taken note of and documented in several releases on *Leo Records* and *brokenresearch*. He has been commissioned by SWR Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden and Freiburg, Lyon Opéra Ballet, Maerz-Musik Berlin, and has received grants from Heinrich-Strobel-Stiftung, Cité Internationale des Arts Paris, and others. CD releases of his compositions can be found on *Wergo* and *oaksmus*.



photo: Charly Plinke / Radio Bremen