

Anthony Davis, piano & Mark Dresser, contrabass **with guest artist, Michael Dessen, trombone**

Saturday, March 7th, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Maelstrom 1 & 2 (2015)

Anthony Davis, piano & Mark Dresser, bass

Anthony Davis

Heil Twitler (2019)

Michael Dessen, Trombone, Anthony Davis, piano and Mark Dresser, contrabass

Mark Dresser

Notation (2020)

Mark Dresser, bass

Mark Dresser

Whose Life? (1983)

Michael Dessen, trombone, Anthony Davis, piano & Mark Dresser, contrabass

Anthony Davis

Still Waters (I) 1983

Anthony Davis, piano

Anthony Davis

I Can Smell You Listening

Michael Dessen, Trombone, Anthony Davis, piano and Mark Dresser, contrabass

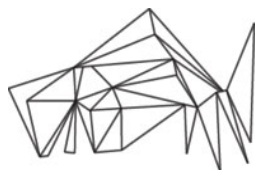
Mark Dresser

The Central Park Five Suite

Michael Dessen, Trombone, Mark Dresser, bass & Anthony Davis, piano
The musical material drawn from the opera The Central Park Five conceived in four movements.

Anthony Davis

1. Time to Act Out
2. Clenched Jaws
3. She's Awake!
4. Korey Wise
5. The World is Ours



About the Program

Maelstrom 1 & 2 (2015) – Anthony Davis & Mark Dresser

This piece is drawn from musical material in my opera, *Lear on the 2nd Floor*. The maelstrom refers to the “Storm.” The second section of the piece is drawn from the conclusion of the opera.

Whose Life? (1983) – Anthony Davis & Mark Dresser

This piece is an extension of the Blues.

Still Waters (I) (1983) – Anthony Davis

This composition was inspired by the 23rd psalm and was written after my father’s death in 1981. It has been recorded as a trio in 1983 with James Newton, flute, Abdul Wadud, cello and Anthony Davis piano on the recording *I’ve Known Rivers* and was recorded later in a septet version for flute, clarinet, bassoon, violin, cello and piano on the recording *Undine*. It was also realized as a concerto gross for flute, cello and piano with orchestra with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the New York Philharmonic.

I Can Smell You Listening (2015) – Mark Dresser

The day after 9/11, I played music together with the late singer, Alexandra Montano (1961-2007) with whom I had recorded *Time Changes* (Cryptogramophone- 2005) and vibraphonist Matt Moran. I remember it as a nearly impossible attempt to seek normalcy while processing shock and grief in the aftermath of the attack. Alexandra was fond of wearing Patchouli oil. She was an incredible musician, a person of great warmth and good humor. After a stunning improvisation, I jokingly said to her, “I Can Smell You Listening.” This piece is dedicated to her memory. It was recorded on my septet CD, *Sedimental You* (Clean Feed- 2016).

The Central Park Five Suite – Michael Dessen, Mark Dresser & Anthony Davis

The musical material is drawn from the opera *The Central Park Five* and is conceived in five movements.

1. Time to Act Out
2. Clenched Jaws
3. She’s Awake
4. Korey Wise
5. The World is Ours

Anthony Davis, Composer/Pianist

Opera News has called composer/performer **Anthony Davis**, “A National Treasure,” for his pioneering work in opera. His music has made an important contribution not only in opera, but in chamber, choral and orchestral music. He has been on the cutting edge of improvised music and Jazz for over four decades. Anthony Davis continues to explore new avenues of expression while retaining a distinctly original voice. Mr. Davis has composed eight operas. **X: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MALCOLM X** with a libretto by Thulani Davis, had its world premiere at the New York City Opera in 1986. A recording of the opera was released in 1992 on the Gramavision label and earned a Grammy nomination for music composition. **UNDER THE DOUBLE MOON**, with a libretto by Deborah Atherton, premiered at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis in 1989 and **TANIA**, an opera based on the kidnapping of Patty Hearst with a libretto by Michael John La Chiusa, premiered at the American Music Theater Festival. A new opera **THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE** based on the trial and tribulations of the Central Park Five with a libretto by Richard Wesley was performed on June 15, 22 & 23rd 2019 with Long Beach Opera at the Warner Grand Theater in Los Angeles. As a pianist, Anthony Davis continues to perform in solo piano concerts in the United States and Europe. He has also performed in duo with bassist Mark Dresser, trumpet master Wadada Leo Smith and flautist Nicole Mitchell. He has appeared as a regular member of the Golden Quartet and Quintet with Wadada Leo Smith including the recordings *Ten Freedom Summers* and *America’s National Parks*.

Michael Dessen, Composer/trombone

Michael Dessen is a composer/trombonist who creates music for improvisers and explores technologies including live electronics, telematics and networked scores. For over two decades, he has composed and performed across a wide array of contexts, garnering critical praise and collaborating with leading artistic innovators. Dessen’s longest-running ensemble, The Michael Dessen Trio, performs immersive live sets that blend adventurous composing and improvising with otherworldly electronics, and has been recognized with awards from Chamber Music America, New Music USA and the Fromm Foundation. The band’s four albums on Clean Feed Records include *Somewhere In The Upstream* (2018), a work dedicated to Yusef Lateef and featuring longtime trio members Christopher Tordini (bass) and Dan Weiss (drums). With both the trio and other groups, Dessen’s compositions have included networked “scorestreams” which display notations dynamically on screens, an evolving exploration of interactivity in which the score (software) can function like a member of the ensemble. On trombone, Dessen’s original sound and broad skill set has made him a valued sideperson for many renowned musicians and interdisciplinary collaborators. In addition to composing works that explore the potentials of the networked stage, he has co-lead large-scale telematic projects including *Virtual Tour 2013: A Reduced Carbon Footprint Concert Series*, one of several co-directed with Mark Dresser and featuring Nicole Mitchell, Myra Melford, and Sarah Weaver among others. Dessen has collaborated telematically with artists in South America, Asia, Europe and North America, and he has co-taught graduate telematic music seminars as well as intercultural courses connecting youth between Colombia and California. Since 2006, Dessen has been a faculty member at the University of California, Irvine, where he co-founded a new PhD program in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology (ICIT) and served for four years as chair of the Music Department.

Mark Dresser, Composer, Contrabass

Mark Dresser is a Grammy nominated, internationally renowned bass player, improviser, composer, and interdisciplinary collaborator. At the core of his music is an artistic obsession and commitment to expanding the sonic, musical, and expressive possibilities of the contrabass. He has recorded over one hundred forty CDs including three solo CDs and a DVD. From 1985 to 1994, he was a member of Anthony Braxton’s Quartet, which recorded nine CDs and was the subject of Graham Locke’s book *Forces in Motion* (Da Capo). He has also performed and recorded music of Ray Anderson, Jane Ira Bloom, Tim Berne, Anthony Davis, Dave Douglas, Osvaldo Golijov, Gerry Hemingway, Bob Ostertag, Joe Lovano, Roger Reynolds, Henry Threadgill, Dawn Upshaw, John Zorn. Dresser most recent and internationally acclaimed new music for jazz quintet, *Nourishments* (2013) his latest CD (Clean Feed) marks his re-immersion as a bandleader. Since 2007 he has been deeply involved in telematic music performance and education. He was awarded a 2015 Shifting Foundation Award and 2015 Doris Duke Impact Award. He is Professor of Music at University of California, San Diego. “Calling contrabassist Mark Dresser a virtuoso is like saying Albert Einstein was good at math.” (San Diego City Times.) “Mr. Dresser, a bassist who is one of the great instrumental forces in recent American jazz outside of the mainstream... (New York Times).

Upcoming Events

Monday Night Jazz: UC San Diego Jazz Ensemble

Monday, March 9th, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center Experimental Theater

UC San Diego Chamber Orchestra

Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.
Mandeville Auditorium

33B Introduction to Composition

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center Recital Hall

95W World Music Students

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center Recital Hall

UC San Diego Bach Ensemble

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Kyle Motl, bass

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center Experimental Theater

Production Credits:

Production Coordinator – David J. Espiritu
Theatrical Production Specialist – Jeremy Olson
Production Technicians – Bobby Bray, Mark Geddes, Pablo Ochoa, and Aaron Sum
Recording Engineers – Andrew Munsey & Mike Butler
Recording Assistants – Xochilt Khoury, Christopher Robinson, Jeffrey Xing, Hailey Brown, Mason Davis
122 GSR – Gabriel Zalles
Marketing & Promotions Coordinator – Sherry An
Program Associate – Madison Greenstone

Audience members are reminded to please silence all phones and noise-generating devices before the performance. As a matter of courtesy and copyright law, no unauthorized recording or photography is allowed in the hall. UC San Diego is a non-smoking campus.

CONTACT US

For information on upcoming concerts:
Music Box Office: (858) 534-3448 | <http://music.ucsd.edu/concerts>