

High Zero Festival of Experimental Improvised Music Announces Special 20th Year Events in Chicago, New York, and Baltimore

July 30, 2018

The High Zero Festival of Experimental Improvised Music has announced that its 20th edition will include an expanded set of concerts and locations, bringing the festival and musicians from Baltimore to both Chicago and New York, and will close with a special all-local celebration in Baltimore this September.

Beginning in 1999, the annual improvised music festival has brought together more than 200 musicians and performers from around the world, mixing and matching them in all new combinations with local Baltimore improvisers each year in never-before-seen collaborations. *Signal to Noise* magazine has called the festival “a fertile laboratory of musical possibility without equal”; the *Washington Post* has described it as “some of the most intense new music being made anywhere, on everything from oboes and one-of-a-kind instruments to the human body itself... unforgettable performances.”

The special 20th-year format flips the festival paradigm on its head: Instead of bringing musicians from afar to Baltimore for collaborations with locals, this year the organizers are bringing musicians from Baltimore to Chicago and New York for a new kind of cross-community collaboration. Roughly 15 musicians from Baltimore will travel to Chicago and then New York for two days of High Zero in each city, where they will be joined by an equal number of local musicians in the same kind of all-new collaborative improvisational groupings typical of the festival’s normal format.

High Zero Chicago

Fri Sept 14- Sat Sept 15

Elastic Arts

<http://elasticarts.org/>

High Zero New York

Co-Presented by Roulette

Wed Sept 19-Thu Sept 20

Roulette <http://roulette.org/>

High Zero Baltimore

Fri Sept 28-Sat Sept 29

Theatre Project

<http://www.theatreproject.org/>

In Baltimore, High Zero will also present site-specific performances and community events, including and celebrating the broader local creative community.

Confirmed Performers List: Please see the next page. Updates will appear at highzero.org.

Photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OaJXPZGHn28P4-sZ_sTU5ntL_LH0ZKJG?usp=sharing

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Full Lineups confirmed as of this release

High Zero Chicago — Fri Sept 14-Sat Sept 15 at [Elastic Arts](#)

Jim Baker (synthesizer, piano)
Ben Baker Billington (drums, electronics)
Angel Bat Dawid (clarinet, piano)
Carol Genetti (vocals)
Jen Hill (miscellaneous)*
Eric Leonardson (springboard)
Julie Pomerleau (violin, viola)
Tomeka Reid (violoncello)
Cristal Sabbagh (dance)
Jason Soliday (electronics, ipad)
Katherine Young (bassoon, electronics)
Michael Zerang (percussion)*

High Zero New York — Wed Sept 19- Thu Sept 20 at [Roulette](#)

Lea Bertucci (bass clarinet, alto sax, electronics)
Chuck Bettis (electronics, throat)
Leila Bordreuil (cello)*
Jaimie Branch (trumpet)*
Michael Evans (percussion, theremin)*
Sandy Ewen (guitar)
Tom Hamilton (electronics)
Amirtha Kidambi (voice)
Ikue Mori (electronics)
Ras Moshe (sax)
JD Parran (woodwinds)
Margaret Schedel (violoncello, electronics)
C Spencer Yeh (voice, violin)

High Zero Baltimore — Fri Sept 28-Sat Sept 29 at [Theater Project](#)

Susan Alcorn (pedal steel)
Stephanie Barber (performance, spoken word)
Shelly Blake-Plock (electric guitar)
April Camlin (drums)
Patrick Crossland (trombone)
Neil Feather (invented instruments)
Carrie Fucile (objects, cassettes)
Alison Clendaniel (voice, piano, cello)
Sarah Hughes (reeds, flute)*
Orlando Johnson (mandolin, found objects)
Wendel Patrick (electronics, keyboards)*
Ada Pinkston (dance)
Peter Redgrave (dance)*
Bob Wagner (drums)
Jason Willett (electronics)

High Zero Collective (Touring & Baltimore)

CK Barlow (electronics, sampling)
John Berndt (reeds, computer, invented instruments)
Andrew Bernstein (saxophone)
Tom Boram (thocolate tynapple panipulator)*
Rose Hammer Burt (reeds)
Samuel Burt (daxophone, bass clarinet)
Jeff Carey (computer, lights)*
Owen Gardner (guitar, cello)
Bonnie Jones (electronics)
Jamal Moore (reeds)
Stewart Mostofsky (electronics)
Paul Neidhardt (percussion)
Shelly Purdy (percussion)*
Jimmy Joe Roche (electronics)
M.C. Schmidt (electronics, balloon)

** Indicates that a high-res press photo is available [here](#)*

Press Quotes from Past Festivals

They aren't just playing outside the box; the box is set on fire, its ashes mixed with water, the subsequent clay is shaped into something just outside the periphery of recognizable. It's good to watch sound broken and remade from the ground up, to let go of expectation. High Zero is an exhausting, invaluable gem of a performance series that enriches anyone who experiences it, whether they bring earplugs or not. – BmoreArt

<http://www.bmoreart.com/2016/10/improvisation-in-real-time.html>

Some of the most intense new music being made anywhere, on everything from oboes and one-of-a-kind instruments to the human body itself... unforgettable performances. – The Washington Post

A fertile laboratory of musical possibility without equal. – Signal to Noise Magazine

The resulting collaborations challenge the limits of music and delight by their audacity, expressiveness, immediacy, and innovation. It isn't about stars or established projects; it is about the most uncompromising and stimulating new improvised music we can bring together. – New Music USA <https://www.newmusicusa.org/projects/high-zero-festival-2014/>