

PRESS RELEASE

The 4th annual Composers Festival will be held Sunday September 3, 2006 at Oddfellows Play House 128 Washington St. Middletown Ct. drawing some of the finest jazz musicians to the city.

Middletown- An independent producer since 1978, Joe Fonda is the founding director of Kaleidoscope Arts . His Vision with Kaleidoscope Arts led to partnerships with the Button Wood Tree to bring multiple festivals to our area , and recent years , he has expanded this partnership tp bring the annual Composers and Improvisors Festival to Middletown.

6pm - Composer- Saxophonist Mixashawn, Solo International acclaimed composer-performer-educator-maritime artist Lee Mixashawn Rozzie has captivated and enlightened audiences in the United Steats and Europe for over three decades. His incarnation of the Wave Artist draws upon a heritage of multicultural innovation that spans four centuries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

7pm-Composer Vocalist, poet Jay Clayton, with Pianist Armen Donelian. Internationally known jazz vocalist Jay Clayton is highly acclaimed for her perceptive jazz improvisations and explorations .Her work has lead her to the highly personal , wordless vocabulary, later enhanced by her innovative use of vocal electronics.

8pm The Fab Trio - with special guest Patricia Nicholson, Composer violinist, Billy Bang, Composer Percussionist Barry Altschul, Bassist Joe Fonda, and Dancer Patricia Nicholson. Billy Bang is a marvelous bridge from early jazz -his strong influence and tribute to Stuff Smith- to the most cutting-edge innovations of the avant-garde. His violin playing is astonishingly versatile, encompassing the lyricism of classical playing, a considerable rhythmic sense, and a flair for the dramatic that makes his solos consistently listenable and rewarding. His recording Vietnam the Aftermath 2004, won critics poles as one the best jazz record of the year. Barry Altschul has played and with recorded with some of the most important musicians in this century, Cick Corea , Paul Bley, Dave Holland , Sam Rivers, Andrew Hill, Anthony Braxton. In the 70s Barry was the drummer for group known as Circle lead by Chick Corea which was called by many critics as the most technically adept free jazz ensemble ever. In 1972 under Dave Holland's leadership Altschul recorded the classic album Conference of the Birds , With Sam Rivers and Anthony Braxton. Patricia Nicholson Dancer, poet, Improviser, Producer. .Patricia has been hailed in the dance world as one of the most important modern improvising dancers of our time . She as performed with her partner William Parker in duo as well as with large ensembles in festivals though out Europe. She is also the producer of the New York City based international Vision Festival.

9pm Composer /Percussionist William Hooker with Violinist Jayson Kao Hwang. Master drummer *William Hooker* has performed with a veritable "who's who" roster of jazz and avant-rock greats, including *Thurston Moore* and Lee Renaldo of *Sonic Youth*, *DJ Olive* of *We*, *Zeena Parkins*, *William Parker*, and a host of others. Hooker's "energy music" is never less than full-on. He leads his ensemble with a fierce, pummeling kick-drum attack, and each player adds another crazy layer to a dense and mildly hysterical overall sound that sometimes recalls *Ornette Coleman*. If *Jackson Pollack's* scatter paintings were music, this is what they would sound like. It's a spidery, labyrinthine map of sound that is sometimes exhausting, always exhilarating.

Bringing together an event which celebrates the genius of contemporary composers takes the participation of many, including funding from the Middletown Commission on the Arts, Meet the Composer from the New England Foundation on the Arts, WESU FM Middletown Ct, The Button Wood Tree and Kaleidoscope Arts. This Funding Bass Allows for the low ticket price of \$10.00, and offers a unique opportunity for the area residents to see and hear the work of some of the finest musicians and composers working in the contemporary jazz scene.

The first set begins at 6pm, Odd fellows Playhouse 128 Washington Ave. Middletown Ct, call 860 347 6134 for details.