

Ken Aldcroft

Guitarist / Composer / Improviser / Educator / Producer

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Performance / Composition / Improvisation / Recording

I have been performing and touring throughout Canada at clubs, concert halls, concert series and festivals for fourteen years. Recent highlights include releasing my debut solo improvised guitar CD, "Vocabulary" and touring central and eastern Canada in support. Performing with Peggy Lee, performing her compositions, at the AIMToronto Peggy Lee Interface

Performing in various ad hoc improvised groupings with local, national and internationally recognized artist including: **Andrew D'Angelo, Jimmy Carl Black, Joe McPhee, William Parker, Wilbert de Joode, Torsten Mueller, Bruce Freedman, Wolter Wierobs, Andy Haas, Marilyn Lerner, John Oswald, Lori Freedman, Nilan Perera, David Mott, Kate Hammett-Vaughan, Paul Hession, Tom Chant, Dylan van der Schyff, Eugene Chadbourne, Reuben Radding, Frank Gratkowski, Michael Snow, Ron Samworth, Jason Robinson, David Prentice, Peggy Lee, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Tony Wilson, Ellen Watterman and Paul Cram.**

Performed original creative jazz and improvised music with these nationally and internationally recognized musicians; **Anthony Braxton, Malcom Goldstein, Claude Ranger, Jean Derome, Graham Ord, J.P. Carter, John Korsrud, Eric Chenaux, Brodie West, Skip Bekwith, Gene Smith, Brad Muirhead, Scott Thomson, Richard Underhill, Stich Winston, Bob Tildesly, Glen Hall, Jean Martin, Bob Teldesley, Kevin Turcotte, Francois Houle, Ronda Rindone, Rob Clutton, Nick Fraser and Victor Bateman.**

Since 1992 I have composed over 89 pieces for creative jazz and improvising ensembles including music for duo, trio, quartet and sextet. Most of these compositions have been performed throughout the country and will be released on my eleven CD and tape releases.

Recordings as a leader

- **2009- "Our Hospitality"** (*trp-010*)- Ken Aldcroft Convergence Ensemble (Spring 2009)
- **2008- "Trolleys"** (*trp-009*)- Ken Aldcroft Convergence Ensemble (Dec. 6, 2008)
- **2008- "Vocabulary"** (*trp-SS01-008*)- Ken Aldcroft Solo Guitar Improvisations
- **2006- "The Great Divide"** (*trp-007*)- Ken Aldcroft Convergence Ensemble
- **2006- "Live II"** (*dr046*)- Ken Aldcroft Convergence Ensemble
- **2006- "Live I"** (*dr001*)- Ken Aldcroft Convergence Ensemble
- **2004- "Kirby Sideroad"** (*trp-006*) - Ken Aldcroft Group (double CD)
- **2003- "From Our Time"** (*trp-005*) - Ken Aldcroft Trio + 1
- **2000- "His mistress never sleeps... a tribute to duke ellington"** (*trp-003*) - Ken Aldcroft Trio + 1
- **1999- "Big Picture"** (*trp-002*) - Ken Aldcroft Trio
- **1998- "Featuring..."** (*trp-001*) - Ken Aldcroft Trio (tape)

Other Recordings

- **2008- "Creative Orchestra 2007"** (*spool*)- Anthony Braxton & the AIMToronto Orchestra
- **2006- "Remnants"** (*owr002*) - Aldcroft / Shaw / Sorbara
- **2000- "January Sun"** (*trp-004*) - Ear Contact George McFetridge/Ken Aldcroft duo

Current Projects

Ken Aldcroft's Convergence Ensemble

- An improvising ensemble (guitar, alto sax, trombone, bass and drums) that also utilizes composed material arranged and interpreted in the moment. Our debut CD "The Great Divide" was released in October 2006 followed by a Canada Council Supported Canadian tour in 2006/2007. Our second CD "Trolleys", recorded February 2007, will be released December 6, 2008 and our third CD recorded October 2007 will be released in 2009.

Ken Aldcroft- solo project

- Performing solo concerts since 2002 and recently released my debut solo CD, "Vocabulary" followed by a central and eastern Canadian tour.

Aldcroft / Oswald / Snow / Valdivia

- An ongoing collaborative group with **Michael Snow**- analog synth, **John Oswald**- alto sax and **Brandon Valdivia**- drums, performing at various venues around Toronto.

Hat & Beard

- Guitar / drums duet project, with drummer **Dave Clark**, working on the Thelonious Monk songbook. Our Debut performance was at the Red Guitar in April 2006 and since then we have performed around Toronto and Southern Ontario

On-going Collective Projects & Collaborations

Remnants Trio - (w/ saxophonist Evan Shaw and drummer Joe Sorbara)

- A collaborative group investigating original compositions and improvisation.
- Performing throughout Canada since 2003 and released our debut CD "Remnants" May 2006.
- Opened for the Rob Brown Trio at the Trane Studio in 2007.

AIMToronto Orchestra

- An 18 piece orchestra led by composer / improviser Kyle Brenders.
- The debut performance was Fall 2007 under the direction of Anthony Braxton at the Guelph Jazz Festival

Collaborating with word, dance, video and film

- **November 2006-present**- participate in the ongoing Coexistdance series curated by Colin Anthony which matches dance and musician improvisers in concert performance and workshops.
- **June 2006**- co-composed "Celebrities are Benevolent and Just Gods" with Kris Elgstrand and was performed at Songroom in Vancouver by Ron Samworth; voice/guitar, John Korsrud; trumpet, Denis Esson; trombone.
- **February 2005- The Pulse: an evening of stories and music**- at the Playwrights Theatre Centre in Vancouver with playwright Kris Elgstrand.
- **September 2005**- Performed an improvised piece with dancer Julie Lebel at the **8:08 Dance Series** in Toronto.
- **March 2005/2004/2003**- Improvised soundtrack with various ensembles to a series of super 8 films at the **University of Toronto Hart House Film Festival**.

Producing / Presenting / Organizing

- **1997- present**- I have been running my own Record and Production Company, **Trio Records and Productions**. I have produced 9 CD releases and 1 tape including 6 of my own projects, two of which were supported by the OAC and a CD by pianist George McFetridge supported by the Canada Council.
- **2006- 2007**- Co-curate the **NOW Series**, a weekly Sunday evening creative jazz and improvised music series.

- **2004- 2007-** A founding member and board member (president 2004-2006) of the non-profit organization **AIMToronto** *the Association of Improvising Musicians Toronto*. www.aimtoronto.org
- **2003- 2006-** Co-curated the **Leftover Daylight Series**, a weekly Friday night creative jazz and improvised music series.

Education / Private Study / Workshops

2007-current- in my final year of an MA in composition; **York University**, Toronto, Ontario

1993- Bachelor of Music, Jazz Studies, Performance Degree (Honours); St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

1990- General Music Diploma; Grant MacEwan Community College, Edmonton, Alberta

One off lessons-

Jan. 2005- bassist **Mark Helias** and saxophonist **Ellery Eskelin**

Nov. 2001- guitarist **Brad Shepik**

Aug. 1997- guitarist **John Abercrombie**

Extended Study-

Nov. 2001-Mar. 2003- improvisation with bassist **Gary Peacock**

Aug. - Sept. 1998- studied harmony with pianist **George McFetridge**

Dec. 1995-Jun. 1996- studied composition and improvisation with guitarist **Steve Fisk**

1996/2003- **the Banff International Jazz Workshop**

1996-1999- **Vancouver International Jazz Orchestra Workshop**

1996- **Pt Townsend Jazz Workshop**

Teaching

Private teaching- (*guitar, improvisation, composition and ensemble classes*)

- **1993- present-** My home studio's in Vancouver and Toronto
- **2000- 2002-** Allegro Music, Toronto
- **1993- 2000-** New Westminster Music Studio, New Westminster
- **1994- 2000-** St. George's Senior and Junior Schools, Vancouver

Workshops- (*various topics including- my creative process, improvisation, composition*)

- **1998-2008-** workshops at various middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across Canada including **McGill University, St. Francis Xavier University, Grant MacEwan College, Queen's University, Douglas College, Capilano College, University of Calgary, University of Manitoba, the NOW Series, Alpha II, Delbrae Academy and Guysborough Academy.**

Grants

2007- Canada Council Promotion Grant- to create a new press portfolio and website

2007- Ontario Arts Council Sound Recording Grant- to record the Convergence Ensemble

2006- Canada Council Tour Grant- Tour Canada with the Convergence Ensemble

2004- Toronto Arts Council Composition Grant- compose 12 pieces for guitar and tenor saxophone.

2003- Canada Council Travel Grant- to attend the 2003 Banff International Jazz Workshop

2002- Ontario Arts Council Sound Recording Grant- to record the Ken Aldcroft Group

1998- Canada Council Tour Grant- toured western Canada in support of debut CD recording.