

Zen Widow

Gianni Gebbia – alto saxophone, flute
Matthew Goodheart – piano
Garth Powell – percussion

“Listening to Zen Widow is like flipping through a sheaf of pages ripped from a sketchbook: sometimes you get fully worked out pictures, at other times drawings too fragmentary to do more than intrigue and bemuse. . . These are striking conjunctions of disparate materials, like a musical equivalent of the Surrealist game of “exquisite corpses.”

- *Cadence Magazine*

Formed in the spring of 2003, the members of the Zen Widow trio had already earned solid reputations for pushing the edges of contemporary jazz and improvised music. They share a quest for seamless interaction, built upon a broad base of style and genre that gives life to the manifold directions of their music. With an international lineup featuring Sicilian Gianni Gebbia and Bay Area members Matthew Goodheart and Garth Powell, the group has performed to critical acclaim throughout the US and Europe, including performances at the San Francisco Alternative Jazz Festival, Seattle Polestar Festival, Werkstatt für Improvisierte Musik (Zürich), and Blaue Fabrik (Dresden). They have also collaborated with other notable improvisers, including Fred Frith (guitar) and George Cremaschi (bass).

Their first CD *ZEN WIDOW*, an eclectic mix of pieces ranging from 17 seconds to 8 minutes, received enthusiastic reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. Their new CD *QUODLIBET*, to be released in December 2007, is an exploration of collage form, combining melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic fragments from jazz, popular, and classical music from many eras.

For booking information and a copy of the Demo disc, contact:

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Promotional information and sound files are available at:
<http://matthewgoodheart.com/zenwidowpromo.html>

Artist Biographies:

Gianni Gebbia

Alto & soprano saxophones – flute

Born in Palermo, Italy, where he still resides, Gebbia is perhaps best known for his circular-breathing technique developed through his studies of Sardinian folk music. An extremely versatile musician with a prominent international reputation, he frequently finds himself in a great variety of collaborations including traditional jazz players, free improvisers, DJs, butoh dancers. In addition to touring extensively in Europe, North America, and Asia, he also has a large number of CDs available.

Matthew Goodheart

Composer, improviser, pianist

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Goodheart explores a variety of forms and processes as solo performer, collaborative artist, and composer. He has toured extensively in North America and Europe, and was a featured artist at the *International Conference/Festival of Spectral Music* in Istanbul. In addition to his artistic career, he also teaches both privately and at a variety of institutions, including Mills College, the University of California at Berkeley, and the East Bay Center for Performing Arts. Goodheart has released a number of recordings, several of which have garnered significant critical acclaim.

Garth Powell

Percussion

For a Percussionist/Composer, time, rhythm, and pulse are undeniable, non-negotiable components of the craft. Yet, the sonic domain remains for many, a peripheral concern. Timbre is not only of equal importance; it is an integral part of the harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic construct. All four exist in the parallel sub-division of frequencies and waves. This relationship demands understanding, discipline, and mastery. In Powell's music, these elements are meticulously combined, creating a transcendent force enveloping the listener. Ultimately, we are drawn into the ecstatic, and the inexplicable. Powell has performed throughout North America and Europe, and appears as a collaborator on a number of recordings.