



February 2002 Meeting Notice

Trimpin Computers and Music

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 12, 2002, 7:30pm

Where: Trimpin's Studio, 3112 E. Union, Seattle

Directions: see below

Trimpin designs his own musical instruments and automates existing musical instruments for museums and public exhibitions around the world. You may have seen several of these in the local area, including the stack of guitars, (some of which are electronically sequenced) at the Experience Music Project (EMP), the east entrance water display at the east end of the Key Arena, and the lobby of the now departed Teatro ZinZanni show.

From his early years as a boy in Istein bei Lorrach, Germany, Trimpin has been interested in spatialization of natural sounds. He developed his own machines to drive acoustic instruments which were mounted in different locations in a room. As this was prior to the use of computers in audio, in order to drive rapid sequences which could pan quickly, he punched out disks which affected hammers in a manner similar to a player piano

"My work is an ongoing exploration of the concepts of sound, vision and movement, experimenting with combinations that will introduce our senses of perception to a totally new experience. Although I use the latest technology available, I work with 'natural' elements — water, air, light, fire, etc. — and reconfigure them in new and unusual applications, pushing them to the limits, and beyond, of what we traditionally think of as their role."

Other than computers, which are used only as a tool to distribute data to his acoustic instruments, electronic musicians won't find that they have equipment in common with Trimpin. He works only with acoustic sounds. No amplification, synthesis, speakers or any other unnatural manipulation of the sound is allowed. The aural outcome is completely acoustic.

Featured in the April 1999 issue of *Smithsonian*, Trimpin has received many prestigious awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship and the MacArthur Fellowship. His installations and performances have delighted audiences the

world over from New Zealand to the Netherlands to throughout the Americas. Groups ranging from the Concergebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam to the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in New York and the Meridian Community Park in Seattle have commissioned original pieces.

In 1989 he created "Floating Klompen" in which a bunch of clogs were set afloat on a pond, clicking in response to a sequencer or interactive human control. He has also created water percussion instruments that are as beautiful to look at as they are to hear. One can be found at the Museum Technorama in Switzerland just outside of Zurich.

In the past about half of his pieces were for music festivals where he would make an interactive musical installation and then come in and perform on it. These days, most of his work is for museums and galleries.

Come to Trimpin's studio and get an idea of how he works and what makes him tick. Be amazed.

Directions:

Address: 3112 E. Union, Seattle.

The studio is located on E. Union St, between 31st Ave and 32nd Ave in the Madrona district of Seattle (east of capitol hill, towards Lake Washington).

From I-5 Northbound: Exit the freeway at Dearborn Street. Careful! This is part of the knot of exits related to I-90 and the James/Madison streets mess. Go right onto Dearborn, then go left at Rainier. Follow the directions, "**From Rainier Ave.**"

From I-5 Southbound: Exit at Dearborn Street. Go left onto Dearborn, then go left again at Rainier. Follow the directions, "**From Rainier Ave.**"

From I-90: Exit at Rainier Avenue, northbound. Follow the directions, "**From Rainier Ave.**"

From Rainier Ave (northbound): Turn right at Jackson Street. Follow Jackson to M. L. King Way (Empire for you Natives). Left onto MLKing. Turn right at Union Street, stay on Union until you reach 31st Ave, not quite to the flashing light at the top of the hill. The studio is on your left about mid-block. Park on Union or in the surrounding neighborhood.

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND