

Come celebrate the solstice – listen, dance, picnic and party under a big airy tent by the Huron River in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town. Bring the family: kids twelve and under are free. Rain or shine, join us for the summer's first great music festival!

Friday, Saturday, Sunday June 18, 19 and 20

Zydeco
Jazz
Cajun
Gospel
Blues
Brazilian
Caribbean

Frog Island Festival '93

2 p.m.
Sunday, June 20
Ivo Perelman Quintet



Ivo Perelman was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1961, to a Polish father and a Brazilian mother of Russian descent. His mother is a pianist and music teacher who encouraged and influenced her child prodigy; by age nine Ivo was already studying classical guitar. At fifteen, a restless intelligence and an insatiable curiosity led Ivo to abandon guitar for investigations of the piano, violin, cello, and trombone - but these instruments somehow failed to grip him. Clarinet exerted more of a pull; clarinetists Jimmie Noone and Albert Nicholas and a stint as a member of the Sao Paulo Dixieland Band helped push him further toward jazz and his true voice, the tenor saxophone.

By his late teens Perelman was combing Sao Paulo to find recordings of influential saxophonists: John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Dexter Gordon, Stan Getz, Hank Mobley, and Brazilian alto saxophonist Victor Assis Brasil. You can hear the influence of these masters in Ivo's penchant for beautiful, contoured melodies, his sensual tone, and his exuberant flights of improvisation. Although his affinity for children's songs and

folk melodies combined with his brilliant, somewhat turbulent interpretations has led to comparisons with Albert Ayler, Ivo cites the fact that he only began to listen to Ayler recently because so many writers made the comparison. Perelman thinks of himself primarily as a romantic player who just wants to make his sax sing.

In 1981 Perelman began searching for a place that was a home to jazz, as this could be the only place for him to really live. His search began where it eventually ended - New York, where he studied with renowned teacher Joe Allard. Ever curious and always one for thorough research, Ivo tested the following locales: Boston, where he attended and dropped out of Berklee College of Music; Montreal, and then Italy, where he played with fellow wandering Brazilian, the guitarist Irio de Paulo.

In 1986 he settled in Los Angeles where he met and studied flute with Marty Krystall. In 1989 Krystall produced Ivo's debut for K2B2 Records, a self-titled release featuring interpretations of Brazilian children's songs.

With this debut, Perelman's musicianship and power of expression etched itself onto the minds and eardrums of the jazz world.

In 1990 Perelman, now finally settled in New York, released the appropriately titled *Live in New York* for Video Arts International, a performance video of a 1989 concert at the Knitting Factory, a "downtown" New York City jazz club that regularly presents visionary musicians such as Henry Threadgill and Cecil Taylor.

In 1991 Perelman returned to Brazil for a few months. One day as he was reading the newspaper he came upon the story of a nine-year-old homeless child who narrowly escaped a group execution by a para-military group. Having been removed for the problems of the homeless in Brazilian cities, Ivo now found himself confronted with a harsh reality. And so was born *Children of Ibeji*, his 1992 release for Enja Records. Perelman was so disturbed and moved by the story of these children that he decided to try and tell their story with music.

It's a risk, but an intelligent and poetic risk - one taken with a sincere love and a deep respect for the music.

"To say nothing new is happening in jazz is to be ignorant of Ivo Perelman."
- Philadelphia Tribune

"Your notions of jazz will have to change."
- Gene Santoro, Pulse

2 pm
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The stunning saxophonist, plus percussionist and fellow Brazilian Guilherme Franco, JoAnne Brackeen, Fred Hopkins and Andrew Cyrille explode with kaleidoscopic pan-American music. A Michigan debut and Frog Island exclusive.