

PRESS RELEASE

**Czech Center New York: Prague-New York Effects
Sixth Effect: Michal Rataj and String Noise**

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Czech composer Michal Rataj collaborates with musicians Conrad Harris & Pauline Kim Harris of the duo String Noise to present the world premiere of an original piece for the Prague-NY Effects program on June 23, 2017. This program will also be performed in Washington DC, Ostrava and Prague.

The Czech Center New York presents the sixth installment of a unique project called Prague-New York Effects as a part of the Thomas M. Messer Bohemian Creative Hub. Diverse artistic disciplines meet in the narrow interstitial space between cultures and countries to create a unique piece. Czech artists and American artists from different sides of the ocean meet on one stage to experiment and to create a musical performance. The Sixth Effect will be a collaboration between a composer and sound designer Michal Rataj, and the multi-talented classical and avant-punk violin duo String Noise.

On Thursday, June 22 2017 Czech composer Michal Rataj will give a composer's talk about his work in the Czech Center cinema.

The World Premiere of the Sixth Effect will take place at Bohemian National Hall on June 23, 2017 at 7 pm.

On June 25, 2017 Michal Rataj and the duo String Noise will perform at the Czech Embassy in Washington DC. The Czech premiere of the Sixth Effect will be held on August 25 at Hlubina Old Bathroom during the Ostrava Days Festival of new and experimental music. The last concert will take place at Palac Akropolis in Prague on September 4, 2017.

The First Effect featured a Brooklyn based jazz singer, dancer and actress Tendayi Kuumba and a five-time Angel award winning singer, songwriter Lenka Dusilová. The Second Effect featured the phenomenal talents of Petr Zuska, the Artistic Director of the Czech National Ballet and Jen Shyu, the multi instrumentalist, jazz vocalist, composer & dancer, and garnered impressive media coverage in both New York and Prague. The Third Effect featured the pairing of Helga Davis, an actor, singer, and radio host known for her extensive work with Robert Wilson, and Jiří Bartovanec, a dancer, choreographer, and permanent member and rehearsal director of

the Sasha Waltz Dance Company. The Fourth Effect featured the Czech clarinetist, composer, producer and multimedia artist Tomáš Dvořák and dancer, actress and choreographer Tami Stronach. The Fifth Effect was a creative collaboration between a composer of contemporary classical and also experimental music Petr Bakla, and contemporary piano star Joseph Kubera, joined by special guest Momenta Quartet.

THE PROGRAM

String Noise, Violin Duo (New York)
Conrad Harris & Pauline Kim Harris

Petr Cígler: *Nothing is Free* (2017) / world premiere
Michal Rataj: *The Long Sentence II* (2017) / world premiere
Alex Mincek: *Way* (2017) / world premiere
Petr Kotik: *Overture* (2014)
Petr Bakla: *September* (2013)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Rataj – Composer

Michal Rataj (born 1975) is composer, performer and sound designer based in Prague, Czech Republic. He composes mainly electroacoustic and chamber or orchestral instrumental music and receives performances throughout Europe and broadcasts worldwide. Recently he has been active as real-time performer of his acousmatic music and he gives sound performances alone or with different music partners.

Rataj is assistant professor of electroacoustic music at the [Department of Composition, Academy of Performing Arts](#) and at the [NYU in Prague](#). He studied musicology (Charles University, Prague) and composition (Academy of Performing Arts, Prague) with prof. Ivan Kurz and prof. Milan Slavický. He also went to study in Egham (UK) and Berlin (D) and as a Fulbright Scholar he conducted research in [Center For New Music And Audio Technologies](#) at University of California, Berkeley, CA in the academic year 2007 – 2008. He has worked as a radio producer at the Czech Radio since 2000, where he has produced over 100 original radioart works with artists from around the world. He also formed [rAdioCUSTICA](#) radioart archive there. He was a member of the [EBU Ars Acustica Group](#), his music has been broadcast worldwide and performed throughout Europe and in the USA. As a film music producer he has composed over 30 soundtracks for TV and cinema since 2000.

String Noise

[String Noise](#) is an "enterprising violin duo" in NYC. Classical avant-garde violinists Conrad Harris and Pauline Kim, who are married, have expanded the two violin repertoire to include over 50 new works written for them since their debut at Ostrava Days in 2011.

String Noise was highlighted in Performa 2011 and was the featured ensemble for the launch of composers collective Index 0. Premieres include works by Christian Wolff, Elizabeth Hoffman, John King, Phill Niblock, Caleb Burhans, David Lang and John Zorn. Future new works by Annie Gosfield, Spencer Topel, Bernhard Lang, Petr Bakla and Dan Siegler to be performed in 2015. String Noise has performed at Issue Project Room, Roulette, EXAPNO, Rockwood Music Hall and the Stone and has been heard on WNYC and WKCR. Their first feature album "The Book of strange positions" is on [NORTHERN SPY RECORDS](#).



Pauline Kim Harris

Pauline Kim Harris is a Grammy-nominated artist who engages in classical to the experimental/avant-garde. Since recording John Zorn's tour de force solo violin work "*Passagen*" for Tzadik in 2012, choreographer Pam Tanowitz created a duet named after the piece with Pauline playing onstage. Premiered at the Joyce Theater in 2013, it was also presented by Lincoln Center Out of Doors and the Chicago Dance Company. As the first violinist of the Alchemy String Quartet, she completed a European tour in the "Zorn @60" concerts in London, Gent, North Sea and Warsaw, as well as at the Lincoln Center Festival, the Miller Theater and the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. She is member of the S.E.M Ensemble, Ostravska Banda, OBSq, Ensemble LPR, the Wordless Music Orchestra and the "enterprising violin duo" String Noise. Pauline has been a guest artist with many of the leading new music ensembles to include Talea, Argento, Transit, Ensemble Signal and Alarm Will Sound and has toured with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. As Music Director of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, she toured the US, Germany, France and Holland as well as performing with the Orion String Quartet at The Joyce Theater for the 30th Year Anniversary Celebration.

As a soloist, Pauline has performed in the LIVE screening of "*There Will Be Blood*" with Jonny Greenwood and the Wordless Music Orchestra at the United Palace Theatre in New York City, presented the Southeast Asian Premiere of John Zorn's "*Contes De Fees*" with the Thailand Philharmonic at TICF, and gave the Czech premiere of Helmut Oehring's "*Vier Jahreszeiten*" with Ostravska Band at Ostrava New Music Days. Pauline is the featured soloist in Petr Kotik's opera "*MASTER-PIECES*" and is the founding member of "*Holographic*" an electroacoustic multimedia work by Daniel Wohl, co-commissioned by Baryshnikov Arts Center, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music, Mass MoCA and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Husband Conrad Harris and Pauline curated Drawing Sound: Part II at the Drawing Center - a three night mini-festival featuring artists Alvin Lucier, Greg Saunier and Jad Fair. A collaborative work with sound artist Gordon Monahan, "*A Note And Its Lifetime*" featuring Pauline was installed on the Floating Library in NYC on the Hudson River (Pier 25) aboard the Lilac Museum Steamship. STRING NOISE: THE BOOK OF STRANGE POSITIONS was released on Northern Spy Records on November 27, 2015, available world-wide showcasing original compositions and punk rock arrangements by Eric Lyon showcasing songs by Deerhoof, Violent Femmes, Radiohead, Black Flag, Bad Brains and Half Japanese. Pauline's first feature album /SHà'kôn/ will highlight new works inspired by Bach's *Chaconne*. Her commissions as a composer consists of four highlights: "Birthday 7-0" for Ostravska Banda, "Enapna" for DZ4, "D Major" for S.E.M Workshop and "When We Were" for St. George's Chorale Society. Pauline Kim Harris was a member in the final masterclass of Jascha Heifetz.

Conrad Harris

Violinist Conrad Harris has performed new works for violin at Ostrava Days, Darmstadt Ferienkürse für Neue Musik, Gulbenkian Encounters of New Music, Radio France, Warsaw Autumn, and New York's Sonic Boom Festival. In addition to being a member of the FLUX Quartet, he is concertmaster/soloist with the S.E.M. Orchestra, Ostravská Banda, and STX Ensemble. He has performed and recorded with such artists as Elliot Sharp, "Blue" Gene Tyranny, Jean-Claude Risset, Rohan de Saram, and Tiny Tim. A solo CD featuring premiers by Alvin Lucier, David Behrman, Robert Ashley, and Gordon Mumma will soon be released on Mode Records. He has also recorded for Asphodel, Vandenburg, CRI, and Vinyl Retentive Records.

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