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# brian allen trio

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With tenor saxophonist **Tony Malaby** and drummer **Tom Rainey**, trombonist and composer **Brian Allen** leads this spontaneously-minded ensemble featuring creative and concentrated improvisations unbound to specific style or genre. Challenging conventional function and expectation, melodies, textures and rhythms emerge and vanish, with the music weaving effortlessly in a multi-dimensional spacious swirl between the three like-minded improvisers.

The trio has been featured at celebrated New York venues such as Barbes and CBGB's as well as the University of North Texas, Metro College in Denver and the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio on their extensive 2006 southwestern United States tour.

Mirroring the enthusiastic response from their dynamic live performances, the trio's debut CD "Synapse" has received unanimous critical praise from publications such as Downbeat, The New York Times, All About Jazz New York, Paris Transatlantic, and Bagatellan.

## about

**BRIAN ALLEN**, native Texan trombonist and composer, performs in a variety of creative musical communities with his own ensembles and collaborations including notable performances with Anthony Braxton, Gerald Cleaver, Mark Dresser, Ellery Eskelin, Satoko Fujii Orchestra and Duo, Frank Gratkowski, Drew Gress, Roswell Rudd and the renowned Austin-based Creative Opportunity Orchestra. A recent recipient of a Meet the Composer Global Connections Grant spawning his new Mexican Quartet, Brian has had compositions premiered at several international, national and regional festivals and conferences including the International Trombone Festival, Society of Composers Conference at Rice University, and the Santa Fe Electro-Acoustic Festival with works for wind ensemble, electro-acoustic pieces, jazz and chamber ensembles. He is an artist/clinician for the Edwards Instrument Company, and teaches privately and at Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas.



Originally from Tucson, Arizona, **TONY MALABY** has been permanently based in New York since 1995 and has been a member of many notable jazz groups including Charlie Haden's Liberation Orchestra, Paul Motian's Electric Bebop Band, Mark Helias' Open Loose, Fred Hersch's quintet and Walt Whitman project, and bands led by Mario Pavone, Bobby Previte, Tom Varner, Marty Ehrlich, Angelica Sanchez, Mark Dresser and Kenny Wheeler. His debut CD "Sabino"(Arabesque) made the NY Times and Philadelphia City Paper's top ten jazz lists for 2000. He has three brand new releases: "Adobe" available on Sunnyside in the US, featuring Drew Gress and Paul Motian; Apparitions" on the Songlines label featuring Tom Rainey, Mike Sarin, and Drew Gress; and "Alive in Brooklyn" featuring Angelica Sanchez and Tom Rainey.

Percussionist **TOM RAINEY** was born in Los Angeles, California in 1957. Since moving to New York City in 1979 he has performed at festivals and clubs throughout North America and Europe with a wide range of artists, including John Abercrombie, Ray Anderson, Tim Berne, Jane Ira Bloom, Ted Curson, Marc Ducret, George Gruntz, Mark Helias, Fred Hersch, Andy Laster, Joe Lovano, Carmen McRae, Mike Nock, Simon Nabatov, New and Used, Matthias Schubert, Tom Varner, WDR Big Band, Ken Werner and Denny Zeitlen. Rainey received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to compose and perform a concert of music for percussion and drums featuring Dave Samuels and Arto Tunçboyacı. Currently he is busy with Tim Berne's ensembles, Drew Gress, Herb Robertson and The Downtown All-Stars and numerous others.



## press

"Their mode of expression is ruggedly free-form, but with a high degree of collective sensibility."

**New York Times**

"The two horn players exhibit a natural ease with multilinear improvisation, whether creating instantaneous structural gambits for one another or simply blowing full-speed ahead in tandem"

**Downbeat**

"Sound-sheet conversations hinting at the free-blues tradition are followed by sparse dialogues between buzzing, dribbling trombone vocalizations and breathy tenor. Backbeats surging out of nowhere, spars of skittering melody, rising tenor waves stopped short by cymbal scrapes and plaintive gulps."

**Paris Transatlantic**

"Cohesive, the trio takes cues from each other gracefully and soars eloquently. With a great respect for poetry in motion, the trio uses most of its energy to work collectively, creating three-way scenes that reflect different impressions. Unique through its original instrumentation and free through its wide-ranging array of impressions, Allen's trio provides a lively yet integrated program."

**All About Jazz New York**

"The trio vaults seamlessly but suddenly from one approach to another, navigating a broad dynamic range: restrained silences, somber avant blues and Ayler-esque gospel yield to erratic metric funk and unfettered free-bop."

**Bagatellen**

"It's a strong date, often empowered by the artists' collective ability to get to the point, make a statement or two, then back off and redirect energies into newer frontiers."

**All About Jazz**

"On any given track, gentle solo musings or impromptu trombone - tenor chorales may give way to a sort of stripped-down mutant funk with either Allen or Malaby strutting out in front, or to broiling post-Ayler collective improvisation, before shifting to pointillistic, contrapuntal ant-music of the sort championed by UK improvisers. Solos, duets, and trios form, twist, and disperse to create an ever shifting tapestry of improvisation"

**Jazz Review**

"The Trio showed just how great this music can be when played by a group of creative and like-minded improvisers. For close to an hour the three explored countless uncharted territories around the realm of modern jazz and free improvisation. Each of the artists were comfortable and inspired enough to weave effortlessly in and out of the forefront, inviting and inciting one another to take the music one step further. This was trio improvising at its best."

**Jazz Corner Live Performance Review from CBGB's, December 2004**