

Thursday, February 15 at 7:30pm, 2007  
Bowker Auditorium

**24 Bits: Hip-Hop Studies and Etudes, Book 1 & 2**  
by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)

featuring

**DBR & THE MISSION**

**Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)**

violin, piano, laptop, vocals

**Wynne Bennett**, piano and keyboards

**DJ Scientific**, turntables/CDJ, laptop & beatbox

**Kenny Grohowski**, drums

**Earl Maneein**, violin

**Jessie Reagen**, cello

**Jim Robertson**, bass

**Matthew Szemela**, violin

**Jon Weber**, viola

**Rika Iino**, touring producer/creative director

**Annie Burns**, tour/stage manager

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## **24 Bits: Hip-Hop Studies and Etudes, Book 1 & 2**

by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)

*Hip-Hop Studies and Etudes* are small, intimate, musical vignettes (one in each key) that explain, examine and express aspects of hip-hop music, from rhythm to timbre to form. What began as a response to the musical and cultural needs of students at the Harlem School of the Arts (where DBR served as chair of the Music Theory and Composition Department) these works represent DBR's own hip-hop and rock-infused rendering of Bach's *Well-Tempered Klavier* and Philip Glass' *Music In 12 Parts*. According to the [New York Times](#), these works "vary greatly in style, from slow, introspective Neo-Classical ruminations to rhythmically complicated, riffy pieces that would not be out of place in a dance club." DBR performs on violin, laptop and piano, and is joined by the members of his band, DBR & THE MISSION; comprised of nine young musicians from diverse musical and cultural backgrounds including an amplified string quartet, bass, drum kit, keyboard, a vocalist, DJ and laptops.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)**

DBR is a composer, performer, violinist, and band-leader who seamlessly blends funk, rock, hip-hop and classical music into a new, personal sonic vision that some have said is simply Revolutionary. He is a classical-urban ambassador for a widening audience on a growing international scene. His exploration of musical rhythms and pulsing sounds are rich with cultural references. His dramatic soul-inspiring pieces range from orchestral scores and energetic chamber works to rock songs and electronica, all embracing his roots of classical music and the multicolored spectrum of contemporary black popular music.

As a composer, DBR has collaborated with Philip Glass, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Vernon Reid, DJ's Radar, Spooky, and Scientific, Savion Glover, Susan Sarandon, Cassandra Wilson, and an array of orchestras and chamber ensembles. The orchestras of Dallas, Memphis, San Antonio, St. Louis, and most recently the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the North Dutch Orchestra, have performed or commissioned his works, and Bill T. Jones and the Orchestra of St. Luke's regularly collaborate with him---DBR is the Music Director of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and Assistant Composer-in-Residence of the OSL. Current projects include *One Loss Plus* (his fifth evening-length solo show) for violin, video, and chamber ensemble; *24 Bits: Hip Hop Studies and Etudes* and *Event Pieces* performed by DBR on piano and laptop; and *Call Them All: Fantasy Projections for Film, Laptop, and Orchestra*, his latest orchestral work which received its world premiere at Carnegie's Zankel Hall by the American Composers Orchestra in March 2006. As a violinist and performer, DBR has performed his arrangements of Cassandra Wilson's *Glamour* with the jazz vocalist and her quintet while conducting the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic; rocked with DJ Spooky at the Lincoln Center Summer Festival; and composed music for and performed in the European premiere of Bill T. Jones' *Another Evening* at the RomaEuropa Festival in Italy. As Artist-in-Residence at Arizona State University, DBR collaborated with Philip Glass in *Seen & Heard: Philip Glass and DBR Together on Stage, Screen and in Sound*. He also serves as the Artist-in-Residence of the Seattle Theater Group sponsored by Starbucks.

As a band leader, he presents lively, genre-jumping hybrid works with DBR & THE MISSION that is comprised of nine young, multi-cultural musicians including an amplified string quartet, drum kit, keyboard, DJ, and laptops. DBR's *24 Bits: Hip-Hop Studies and Etudes* were highlighted at the group's sold out performance at Joe's Pub receiving critical acclaim. The band's multi-disciplinary performances have been applauded at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, Miami's Caleb Auditorium, NYC's Cutting Room, Joe's Pub and Bowery Poetry Club, Brooklyn's 651 Arts, Chicago's Northwestern University, Arizona State University's Gammage Auditorium, Montclair's Kasser Theater, and Reno's ArtTown Festival, where the band played to an audience of over 2,000 dedicated friends and fans.

Numerous coast-to-coast performances are scheduled for this upcoming year: a Midwestern premiere tour of *A Civil Rights Reader* (DBR's ongoing series of string quartets depicting leaders from the civil rights era culminating with a concert at Washington DC's Library of Congress); a college-bound tour at UCLA and the University of Massachusetts; a new guitar concerto for Eliot Fisk and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra; *Chapel/Chapter* (the latest Bill T. Jones/DBR collaboration commissioned by Harlem Stage) and a highly anticipated 2007 debut season at BAM's NextWave Festival. For everything else, there's [www.dbrmusic.com](http://www.dbrmusic.com).

**Wynne Bennett** (music director/keyboards/laptop) Originally raised in North Bergen, New Jersey, composer/pianist/keyboardist Wynne has performed and appeared nationally with diverse artists such as James Carter, Konstantin Lifschitz, Philip Glass, Joan Tower, Akim Funk Buddha, Slick Rick, Little Brother, and Mobb Deep. As a composer, Wynne has co-written arrangements for Cassandra Wilson's *Glamoured* album, and members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's recently premiered her works 'Insomnia' for string quartet and 'Tiny Chapters' for flute and clarinet. *The New York Times* gave the performance of 'Insomnia' a favorable review, describing the work as "a quartet in which moments of intense emotionalism are offset by amusing touches and daring scoring effects", and further compares Wynne's writing to Jimi Hendrix's 'Purple Haze'. Wynne is currently performing internationally with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co in *Another Evening: I Bow Down*. Wynne serves as Music Director for DBR & THE MISSION and Projects Manager for DBR Music Productions. Wynne also performs with Beetroot, an urban underground band based in NYC (most recently, Beetroot opened up for Gza of Wu-Tang Clan and signed a licensing deal with the Japanese company Trident). She is currently working on a solo show involving laptop, piano, keyboard, drum machine, and film. [www.wynnebennett.com](http://www.wynnebennett.com).

**DJ Scientific** (a.k.a. Christian Davis, laptop/turntables/beatbox) began his musical career in Oakland, CA in 1995 with politically charged hip-hop group Rizing Sun Productions. Then an MC, now a seasoned producer, engineer, laptopist and DJ, he attended School of Audio Engineering in New York and began spinning at clubs and high-end social events in the city, including exclusive parties for Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs, Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, and performing regularly at Diesel stores. Since 2003, DJ Scientific has been collaborating extensively with DBR to develop unique, amplified, hip-hop-inspired soundscapes and touring internationally. Hailed by the *LA Times*, DJ Scientific has most recently designed sound installations for the Studio Museum of Harlem, and performed 'Call Them All' (written by DBR and Janet Wong) at Carnegie Hall. When not on tour, DJ Scientific produces a monthly party to showcase new acts at the White Rabbit in New York City's Lower East Side, and teaches students the importance of social change through art at Westinghouse High School in an after-school program 'Songwriters For Schools' with collaborator bassist Brian Satz. [www.djscientific.net](http://www.djscientific.net).

**Kenny Grohowski** (drums/percussion) Growing up in a household of musicians in Miami, Kenny began studying music at age 12 through the public school system. Since the age of 14, Kenny has performed with numerous artists ranging from a multitude of styles. Current and previous collaborators include Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz (Kenny's grandfather), Giovanni Hidalgo, Cassandra Wilson, Bill T. Jones, Orchestra of St. Lukes, Bobby Sanabria, John Benitez, Domingo Quinones, Nestor Torres, Alex de Castro, Bobby Valentin, Rory Stuart, DJ Radar, Vernon Reid, Jose Madera, Candido, Janek Gwizdala, Andy Milne and Dapp Theory, Ravi Coltrane, Somi, Chris Rob, Sampsonic, DBR & the MISSION (under ICM management) Peter Cincotti and many others. Kenny has also appeared on several recordings, including Lonnie Plaxico's hit records *So Alive* (Sony Records, Japan) and *West Side Stories*. Kenny is also a composer, and members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's Young Composers Symposium Development Program, who premiered one of Kenny's string quartets in 2005. *The New York Times* praised the piece as "insightfully combined dark Shostakovich-like harmonies with an edgy rhythmic drive". Kenny has released his first solo album Entitled *Second Last Minute*, which blends a personal expression with a multitude of influences, ranging from Weather Report, Allan Holdsworth, Meshuggah, Lonnie Plaxico, Miles Davis, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, and Brand X. He will be in the Studio at then

end of 2006-2007 to work on his second album. Kenny is currently endorsed by Latin Percussion and Factory Metal Percussion.

**Earl Maneein** (violin) From New York City, Earl is a multi-instrumentalist, skilled in many genres, including classical, jazz, thrash metal, hip hop, blues, folk, bluegrass, Celtic and country. He is a firm believer in Duke Ellington's (attributed) philosophy that "there are only two kinds of music – good and bad." As such, he holds no real boundaries in his approach to music. As an orchestral and chamber musician, Earl has performed in many major concert halls, such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and has performed in the masterclasses of Pamela Frank and members of the Julliard, Emerson, and Orion String Quartets. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Queens College and Master of Music degree from Mannes College of Music as a student of Orion String Quartet violinist Daniel Phillips. As a violinist in DBR & THE MISSION, Earl has had the honor of performing with the jazz vocalist Cassandra Wilson, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, guitarist Vernon Reid of Living Colour, and composers Philip Glass and Ryuichi Sakamoto. Earl finds himself playing many different kinds of music in varied situations, and has backed up artists such as Jay-Z, Beyonce Knowles, ?uestlove of the Roots, and Rhianna, among others, and shared the stage with Sinead O'Connor, Van Morrison, Natalie Merchant and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones. Earl also maintains a teaching studio, and is currently working on Resolution 15, a solo project that pushes the boundaries of the electric violin past its preconceived limits via thrash metal/hardcore. Visit him at [www.earlmaneein.com](http://www.earlmaneein.com).

**Jessie Reagen** (cello) Creator of the Hustla Symphony Orchestra, Jessie performed with Jay-Z in the *Reasonable Doubt 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert* at Radio City Music Hall and Nokia Theatre (NYC) in June 2006, featuring music director Ahmir "?uestlove" Thompson and special guests Beyonce, Sauce Money, Pain In Da Ass, Memphis Bleek, Foxy Brown, and The Illadelphonic. Jessie has also performed several concerts with Kanye West, including *Live 8* (Philadelphia), *Late Registration Tour & Jingle Ball* (Madison Square Garden, NYC), *Saturday Night Live* (with Adam Levine), *New Year's Eve Total Request Live* (with Adam Levine) and *American Express' Membership Changes Everything* concert at Nokia Theatre (with John Legend, Common, and Pharrell, NYC). Theatrical music performance credits include *Light in the Piazza* (Tony award-winning score), Italian epic *Orlando in Love*, *The American Girl Review*, *Little Women* (Broadway production), and a cellist/inmate in *Misterioso*. *Bach & Beats*, Jessie's solo show, premiered in January 2006 at NYC's 92nd St Y. Collaborations include performances with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, New York Continuo Collective, East Village Opera Company, Frantic Turtle, DANCE This..., and Philip Glass. In addition, Jessie frequently plays in religious services at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Classically trained, Jessie has won the Mannes Concerto Competition, the Illinois ASTA Competition, and the Rembrandt Chamber Players Competition, and has recorded for Naxos American Classics. Originally from Skokie, IL, Jessie completed formal studies at Mannes College of Music as a scholarship student of Timothy Eddy (Orion String Quartet) and Carter Brey (New York Philharmonic). Jessie is currently on faculty at the United Nations International School in Manhattan. [www.cellochic.com](http://www.cellochic.com)

**Jim Robertson** (bass) Jim started playing acoustic and electric bass when he was 14. He has studied everything from classical to metal and has cultivated these different sounds into his own unique voice and style. In 2001, Jim moved to New York to study at The New School University Jazz and Contemporary Music Program. During his time at New School, he had the privilege to study under Jane Ira Bloom, Jason Lindner, John Benitez, Eric Mcpherson, Johannes Weidenmueller, Junior Mance, and Paul Bolenback. Jim has worked with Reggie Workman, Junior Mance, Greg Tardy, Joel Weiskopf, Myron Walden, Todd Williams, Memo Acevedo, John Bany, Don Stille, and Von Freeman. Jim is also a composer and music director for film and documentaries. Current film and TV projects include *Child Boxer*, a documentary that will air in the later part of 2006, and various commercial spots for companies such as Pez Candies. Studio work is also a large part of Jim's life; he engineers and produces various projects ranging from Hip Hop to contemporary classical music. Jim has worked with the Yayoi Ikawa Trio (Yayoi Ikawa, & Tyshawn Sorey) for many years. The trio is now touring all over the world to promote

the release of their latest CD, *Color Of Dreams*. Jim is also currently performing in Rogue State, a political/social based hip hop/rock group that is touring to promote their latest CD (self-titled), and working on his solo CD project that will cover a vast array of musical styles and genres; as well as show his skills as a composer, arranger, producer, and bass player.

**Matthew Szemela** (violin) Hailing from New Gloucester, Maine, Matthew is a musician who enjoys performing in a variety of genres. In the classical realm, Matthew has performed as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in several renowned concert halls in NYC (Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully, Merkin Recital Hall) and abroad (Belgium, Luxembourg). Branching away from the classical stage, he has performed with Grammy Award winning jazz vocalist Cassandra Wilson, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, guitarist Vernon Reid of Living Colour, Susan Sarandon, Olivia Newton John, and Def Jam recording artist Rhianna, as well as portraying an Irish rock violinist in the Warner Brothers film *August Rush*. In the summer of 2006, Matthew served as concertmaster of the Hustla Symphony Orchestra for Jay-Z's *Reasonable Doubt 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert* at Radio City Music Hall (NYC), collaborating with ?uestlove and the Illadelphonic, Beyonce, Foxy Brown, Pain in Da Ass, Memphis Bleek and Sauce Money. He performs regularly with Vince Giordano and The Nighthawk's, a big band devoted to performing hot jazz of the '20s and '30s, and is a founding member of the oboe-violin-keyboard trio known as Initial Ascent, a group that performs original composed repertoire, and also takes elements of classical, jazz and progressive rock and infuses them with free and modal improvisation. [www.myspace.com/matthewszemela](http://www.myspace.com/matthewszemela).

**Jon Weber** (viola) was born and raised in Great Neck (Long Island), NY. Jon maintains an active, versatile career as violinist, violist and conductor, performing in multiple genres and venues throughout the United States and abroad. As a classical player, he has collaborated and performed with artists such as Daniel Phillips and Timothy Eddy (the Orion String Quartet), The Bach Aria Group, flutist Tara O'Connor, and oboists Ronald Roseman and Randall Wolfgang. Jon is also a founding member of the Neue Bach Band, an ensemble specializing in the instrumental and vocal works of Bach and his contemporaries. As an active freelancer in the New York area, he has frequently served as concertmaster of the DiCapo Opera Theatre Orchestra under the baton of conductor Anton Coppola, and has also performed with the Long Island Philharmonic. Additional New York venues include performances at Carnegie Hall, Weil Recital Hall, Symphony Space, St. Patrick's Cathedral, The Cutting Room and The Knitting Factory. As a soloist and chamber musician, Jon has made appearances in Austria, The Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Israel and Cyprus. Branching outside of the classical arena, in addition to being a member of DBR & THE MISSION, Jon recently served as principal violist of the Hustler's Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with ?uestlove and The Illadelphonic, backing up Jay-Z, Beyonce, Memphis Bleek, Foxy Brown, Pain in Da Ass, and Sauce Money in the *Reasonable Doubt 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert* at Radio City Music Hall and Nokia Theatre (NYC). Jon has also performed with tap dancer Savion Glover, singers Dionne Warwick and Chaka Khan, and has recorded with composer, Ryuichi Sakamoto. Jon can soon be seen on screen in the upcoming Nicole Kidman film *Fur*, performing as violist alongside film composer Ryan Shore. Jon currently holds a position on the faculty at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, where he serves as a conductor, chamber music coach, and violin/viola instructor. [www.myspace.com/jonweber](http://www.myspace.com/jonweber).

**Rika Iino** (touring producer/creative director) grew up in Tokyo, Japan training as a classical pianist. Rika's passion for event production and design sparked in 1996 while working in Tokyo as an assistant to Executive Producer for the nationally televised *Super Concert*, featuring Natalie Cole, Kiri Te Kanawa, Andre Previn and the NHK Symphony collaborating on one stage. Later that year, she produced and directed *Lunar Gala*, her first New York City production, at her alma mater Columbia University; the Lancome-sponsored charity fashion show for the Chinatown YMCA showcased over 10 emerging Asian designers. For the next decade, Rika's uncompromising style and razor sharp wit have been responsible for numerous concert and theatrical productions as well as promotions in the fields of music publishing, fashion, artist management and graphic and web design. In 2001, Rika launched SOZO MEDIA, her own

marketing, production and business management company dedicated to the promotion of multidisciplinary projects and culturally diverse artists. Most recently applauded was her work as producer and director of *SEEN AND HEARD: Philip Glass and Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), Together on Screen, Stage and in Sound* at Arizona State University's Gammage Auditorium (April 2005) and *VISION BLINDING*, a 60-minute solo violin and live video work featuring DBR and Yuki Nakajima at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (September 2005). In spring 2006, she served as co-curator and producer for *Fest Forward: Hip-Hop Unbound*, a 2-week multi-arts festival at New York University.

**Annie Burns** (tour/stage manager) is originally from Albuquerque, NM. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, Annie studied sound engineering and arranging for big band and orchestra. While in Boston, she also founded an independent rock band (now disbanded), who she wrote songs for and toured with regionally. Annie left Boston to work as a stage manager, music director, instrumentalist, sound designer, and lighting/sound board operator for theatre companies in NYC. Recent stage and tour credits include Tour Manager to Latin performer Jade Esteban Estrada (Vicarious Records – national tour), Stage/Tour Manager & Guitarist for New York Artists Unlimited (regional tour), and Coordinator/Stage Manager for The Moses Project theatre co. (regional dates). Annie is currently working as Producer for Sozo Media, an artists & events development, marketing, and production company; Administrator for Theater Resources Unlimited (TRU), a theatre networking non-profit; Promotions Manager for nationally touring rock songstress & recording artist Kelly Buchanan; and Booking & Promotions Manager/General Advisor for Aloud, an up-and-coming regionally touring rock band. [www.annierock.com](http://www.annierock.com)

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Are you a friend? [www.myspace.com/dbrmission](http://www.myspace.com/dbrmission).

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