Solos & Duos Series begins with Elliott Sharp

The UMass Fine Arts Center’s Solos & Duos Series begins its 3rd season with a solo concert by guitarist Elliott Sharp on Thursday, September 30, 2004 at 8:00 pm. in Bezanson Recital Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

In his continuing exploration of the limits of instruments, composition and improvisation, Elliott Sharp presents The Velocity of Hue, a collection of pieces performed on enhanced acoustic guitar. This music, shaped by Sharp’s personal sonic vocabulary of textures, densities and groove, also filters the string traditions of the music of central Asia, India and North Africa, country blues and the “American Primitive” strain of John Fahey and Robbie Basho.

“While it may seem like a radical departure at first, Velocity ultimately remains true to Sharp's career-long investigation into the science of sound,” writes Steve Smith in Time Out NYC. “If much of his previous work has found beauty in extremes of intensity, he reverses course here, creating a cumulative intensity from extremes of beauty.”

The Velocity of Hue was released in November on the English Emanem label.

Sharp, considered by The New York Times to be “one of downtown’s most important artists…one of the scene’s most fertile composers,” has been a fixture in New York since the late ‘70’s, moving seamlessly from acoustic blues to orchestral pieces to film scores. E# is equally gifted on guitar, clarinets, and tenor sax and, aside from his own huge body of work, has collaborated with qawaali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, cello innovator Frances-Marie Uitti, blues legend Hubert Sumlin, turntablists DJ Soulslinger and Christian Marclay, jazz greats Jack deJohnette and Sonny Sharrock, and Bachir Attar, leader of the Master Musicians of Jahjouka.

Sharp leads the groups Orchestra Carbon, Tectonics, and Terraplane. His compositions have been performed by the Ensemble Modern, Continuum, Kronos Quartet, the Soldier String Quartet, and the Quintet of the Americas. He wrote the score to the film, “Lo Que Soño Sebastien”, by Guatemalan writer/director Rodrigo Rey-Rosa, featured at the Sundance Festival in January, 2004. His piece "Quarks Swim Free" performed by Carbon was premiered at the Venice Biennale in September 2003.

The Solos & Duos Series continues with a concert by the Joe Maneri/Mat Maneri Duo (October 28), and concludes with a performance by the William Parker/Hamid Drake Duo (December 9).

Tickets are $10 and $5 (students), and are available through the Fine Arts Center box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center and made possible by the: Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund and UMass Alumni Association. Thanks to the Campus Center Hotel and WMUA, 91.1FM