
**Milford Graves** is a percussionist, acupuncturist, herbalist, martial artist, programmer, and professor. A pioneer of free Jazz, Graves was a member of the New York Art Quartet, whose iconic first recording in 1964 featured LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka) reading his poem "Black Dada Nihilismus." In 1967, he played at John Coltrane’s funeral. A consummate autodidact with a syncretic approach, Graves invented a martial art form called Yara based on the movements of the Praying Mantis, African ritual dance, and Lindy Hop in 1972. Shortly thereafter, Graves joined the Black Music Division at Bennington College, where he taught for 39 years and is now Professor Emeritus. In 2000 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and began to study human heart vibrations to better understand music’s healing potential, and in 2015 he received the Doris Duke Foundation Impact Award. He is the subject of a critically acclaimed, feature-length documentary, *Milford Graves Full Mantis* (2018), directed by his former student, Jake Meginsky, with Neil Young. Additional notable recordings include *In Concert At Yale University* (with Don Pullen, 1966); *Dialogue of the Drums* (with Andrew Cyrille, 1974); *Babi* (1977); *Meditation Among Us* (1977); *Real Deal* (with David Murray, 1992); *Grand Unification* (1998); *Beyond Quantum* (with Anthony Braxton and William Parker, 2008); and *Space/Time Redemption* (with Bill Laswell, 2014). He continues to live and work in South Jamaica, Queens in the home that formerly belonged to his grandmother.

Composer/performer/filmmaker **Jake Meginsky**, a New Music USA award winner and Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in filmmaking, has collaborated and performed with an extraordinary range of musicians including Milford Graves, Alvin Lucier, Joan La Barbara, Vic Rawlings, Greg Kelley, Bhob Rainey, Joe McPhee, Thurston Moore, William Parker, Daniel Carter, Paul Flaherty, Arthur Brooks, and Bill Nace. His work has been presented widely and internationally, including the Click Festival (Copenhagen, Denmark), Standards (Milan, Italy), the Duolun Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai), Beijing Today Museum and Jinse Gallery (Chongqing, China); throughout New York City at The Kitchen, New York Live Arts, Joyce SoHo, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Symphony Space, Judson Church, La MaMa, The Stone, The Flea Theater, Vision Festival, Roulette, Museum of Arts and Design, Center for Performance Research, Improvised and Otherwise Festival, and Free 103; in Boston, MA at Opensound Festival, The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology, YDLMER Festival, Mobius Gallery, Le Laboratoire and the New England Complex Systems Institute; The Neurosciences Institute (La Jolla, CA), Context Art Fair (NYC & Miami), Experimental Music and
Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) and the Arts Center for the Capital Region (Troy, NY), The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts (Bard College, NY), DOT AIR Festival (Providence, RI), University of Iowa, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT), Work in the Performance of Improvisation Festival and USDAN Gallery (Bennington College, VT), A.P.E. Gallery, Academy of Music, and the Sound and Space Festival (Northampton, MA), Pioneer Arts Center (Easthampton, MA), and the Mead Museum of Art (Amherst, MA).

Meginsky’s work has been reviewed extensively in leading contemporary music, art and culture publications worldwide. Meginsky’s 2014 solo record L’appel Du Vide was included in the WIRE’s 2014 Top 10 Records of the Year for Outer Limits and his Seven Psychotropic Sinewave Palindromes was listed in FACT Magazine’s Top 50 Albums of 2016.

Meginsky frequently collaborates with choreographers and has worked with Cori Olinghouse, Paul Matteson, Jennifer Nugent, Susan Sgorbati, Katie Martin, Wendy Woodson and Nora Chipaumire. He has a longstanding artistic relationship with Gwen Welliver. Welliver and Meginsky will premiere a new evening-length work at Gibney Dance Center (NYC) in 2018. Meginsky is the recipient of a New Music USA Live Music for Dance award for his original composition for Welliver’s Beasts and Plots, which premiered at New York Live Arts in 2013 and will be restaged at the Guggenheim in 2018. His latest solo LP, Gates and Variations, was released on Open Mouth Records in October, 2017.