

ScienSonic Laboratories releases *Luminations*: a new collaborative project for violin and bass saxophone, with Aska Kaneko and Scott Robinson



In Jan. 2013, violinist Aska Kaneko and saxophonist Scott Robinson met for the first time on the stage of Brooklyn's Roulette performance space, on the occasion of drummer Pheeroan akLaff's "Global Matters" concert for the long-running Interpretations series produced by Tom Buckner and Mutable Music. Scott describes the magic of their first meeting this way:

"We were just setting up, and I was out on the stage with my bass sax, softly warming up and playing long tones... just getting a feel for the space, with my eyes closed. Gradually I began to detect an extra vibration in my sound, something I was unfamiliar with. I moved to another note, and the extra vibration moved with me. As I moved around the horn, the vibration grew and became a sound, and I suddenly realized it was coming not from my horn, but from somewhere else. I opened my eyes and saw Aska at the far end of the stage, bow on her strings, staring intently at me... suddenly I realized I was playing music with someone. This music grew and became a swooping, gliding thing, now two sounds instead of one, but still feeling like one mind. It was a kind of dance that left me stunned and exhilarated. I knew instantly that this person not only had perfect pitch, and knew every note I was playing, but incredible intuition as well... and that rare quality of *trust*. With a strong sense that something new was beginning in my musical life, I went over to her and said, "We have to do something!"

That something came to pass on Nov. 21, 2015, when the pair met at ScienSonic Laboratories to record a series of improvised duets, 18 of which have now been released as *Luminations*. "The

format of bass sax and violin duo has, so far as I know, never been done" Scott says. "It is a surprisingly full sound, spare yet very complete." This recording clearly shows some of the many possibilities offered by these relatively-overlooked instruments in creative, improvised music -- particularly in the hands of two people who obviously share a special musical affinity.

Aska Kaneko is an internationally-recognized violinist and composer with a long history of international awards for performance and composition. Encompassing a wide range of jazz, classical, and world musics, her many projects include the Asian Fantasy Orchestra, Aska Strings, and Gaia Cuatro, as well as collaborations with Bill Laswell, Yosuke Yamashita, Zakir Hussain, Paolo Fresu, Makoto Ozone, Butch Morris, and choreographer Yoshiko Chuma.

Scott Robinson is well-known as a tenor saxophonist, as well as for his work with a large collection of unusual instruments. The bass saxophone has long been a particular passion. Scott's efforts have covered a very wide swath of creative music, including work with Roscoe Mitchell, Maria Schneider, Ruby Braff, Anthony Braxton, Marshall Allen, Bob Brookmeyer, Ron Carter and Frank Wess. Although his compositions range from solo pieces to symphony orchestra, he remains a committed believer in the importance of free improvisation.

March 11, 2017, the birthday of improvising violinist Leroy Jenkins, was chosen as the release date for this album of adventurous duets for violin and bass saxophone. Please visit www.sciensonic.net for more information on *Luminations*, as well as the ScienSonic Laboratories Membership Program, and our many other "*Worlds of Tomorrow Through Sound!*"



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