

EUPRAXIA music and arts collective
Presents

MOONDOG RISING
*A FESTIVAL EXPLORING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF
COMPOSER LOUIS HARDIN 1916-1999*

November 2-3, 2007 at Advent Lutheran Church
93rd and Broadway, New York City

Featuring
Stefan Lakatos: master of the Trimba
Robert Scotto: author of the forthcoming authorized biography,
“Moondog: the Viking of 6th Avenue”
and
The Eupraxia Players: 15 classically trained musicians,
plus special guests.

‘Moondog Rising’ is a unique collaboration between organizations, performers, artists, scholars, and supporters convening in New York for two days of concerts, symposia, and social action in honor of a prolific but under-recognized composer.

Born Louis Thomas Hardin in 1916, Moondog first made an impression in the late '40s when his music was played by the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall. His unique, melodic compositions were released on the Prestige jazz label. In the late '60s the Viking-garbed Moondog was a pop music sensation on Columbia Records. The last decades of his life saw his evolution as a master composer for European orchestras.

‘Moondog Rising’ celebrates the release of Hardin’s first and only authorized biography by Robert Scotto, 20 years in the making. “Moondog, the Viking of Sixth Avenue” will be released in October by Process and includes a CD featuring numerous selections never before released.

Stefan Lakatos was a close friend of Moondog and inherited the unique Moondog percussion instrument, known as the trimbas. He is the only person to have studied percussion with him and is now is the curator and the artistic supervisor of Moondog’s music.

Eupraxia is a new nonprofit organization devoted to exploring composed musics from various socio-historical perspectives. Through collaborative endeavors with associated disciplines, the Eupraxia Players seek out diverse audiences, participate in education and outreach programs, and commit to creating community through their efforts. ‘Moondog Rising’ was developed by Eupraxia Director, Robin Boomer.

MOONDOG RISING
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Advent Lutheran Church
93rd and Broadway, New York City

Friday, November 2, 2007

6:00 Opening Reception for pass-holders.

Pass holders may reserve their seats, enjoy snacks and meet participants. Pass holders will also have access to Marji Gere's Moondog Madrigal Mini Puppet Show (not available to single ticket holders) and will receive a copy of the festival poster, designed by Jon Hammer.

8:00 Concert I: Moondog and the Classical Tradition

Moondog's music is explored as it relates to the classical tradition. His music will be performed with the composers whom he admired and emulated. New "Madrigals" composed for the festival will be performed alongside the Moondog works that inspired them.

Saturday, November 3, 2007

6-7:15 Presentation of the Life by Robert Scotto

Author of the only Moondog biography "The Viking of 6th Avenue", Robert Scotto presents the Moondog story. Q&A with the audience will conclude.

8:00 Concert II: Moondog and His American Contemporaries

Moondog's music is performed with that of his contemporaries including Charles Ives, the composer to whom Moondog is most often compared, and Elliot Carter, another New York icon.

Festival Passes go on sale September 27 for \$50.

Single ticket sales begin October 8 at \$15 per concert (\$20 at the door).

Starting September 27, go to www.eupraxia-arts.org for more information and to buy tickets.

CONCERT DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, November 2: MOONDOG AND THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

Moondog and the Keyboard

Moondog wrote a series of preludes and fugues based on those of Bach's. Here, one of each is played side by side. Also, some of Moondog's famous works for piano and percussion (trimbass) will be featured

Madrigals and Rounds

Moondog released a series of "Madrigals" on the Columbia label that were, in actuality, rounds. Some traditional Madrigals will be performed in contrast to Moondog's. Also, young composers Jacob Baton, Marjorie Gere, and Dan Sedgwick will be performing new rounds written for the festival and inspired by Moondog. And Barton, like Moondog, has created a new instrument. His utterbot, will make its New York debut.

Moondog and the Chamber Music Tradition

Although heavily influenced by the great composers of the European tradition, Moondog rarely composed works for traditional ensembles. Hear one of his few string quartets paired with the fugal movement from his op. 102 cello sonata. A traditional Mozart quartet movement will precede a set of Bracelli pieces, one of Moondog's favorite ensemble types (for 2 violas, 2 cellos, bass, and percussion).

Saturday, November 3: MOONDOG AND AMERICAN CONTEMPORARIES

This performance explores the relationship between Moondog (1916-1999), Charles Ives (1874-1954) and Elliot Carter (b. 1908). Ives and Moondog are both often described as American mavericks, but their music has very little in common. In fact, it is more likely that this comparison has much more to do with their idiosyncratic personalities than their music. Carter is considered one of the major innovators of composed music in the 20th century and is himself a New York icon. But, like Ives, his music is far removed from that of Moondog's. Both Ives and Carter are firmly established in the world of classical music but Moondog is not. This performance will address some probable factors for this exclusion.

Performance will include

- works for solo piano by Moondog and Carter
- works for strings by Moondog and Ives including movements from the latter's String Quartet no. 1 and Piano Trio.
- works for winds by Moondog and Carter including the latter's Wind Quintet
- a Moondog sing-a-long