

MSU Music

PRESENTS

Crystal Mooncone, guest

with

Lyn Goeringer, accordion and electronics

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, Music Building**



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST BIOS

"We use music we find on the streets and in the forests and play them with our laptops. We play accordions, guitars, balloons, organs and pianos. We play pretty music and we play noise. We care if you listen. We play for dancers and video and in the dark. We record in canoes, in swamps and in studios, and perform in Europe, India and the U.S. We are Chris Peck, Jon Moniaci, and Stephen Rush."

Crystal Mooncone (Stephen Rush, Chris Peck and Jon Moniaci) is an electroacoustic band with a psychedelic sensibility that mixes playful interaction with committed listening and melds virtuosic musicianship with a taste for risk and the real possibility of failure. The band relies on intimate music-making knowledge developed over ten years of performing together to bring a "Zen Calligraphic" sense to the compositional process — a blend of spontaneity and precision. Their interests lie in the unknown and the possibilities of open-ended improvisational performance, relying heavily on listening, awareness, trust, and shared musical experience. Through an iterative creation/listening process, the trio hones their collective musical decision-making while still delighting in the unexpected.

The distinctive sound of Crystal Mooncone arises from an idiosyncratic blend of old and new technologies, hi-fi and lo-fi, acoustic and electronic, analog and digital, familiar and unfamiliar, nostalgic and futuristic, "real" and "imaginary." Familiar instruments such as piano and flute collide with hardware and plumbing supplies (following the tradition of American experimentalism). "Silly" instruments like slide whistles and bike horns take on serious prominence (with echoes of the Art Ensemble of Chicago). Deep engagement with instruments and approaches from diverse musical traditions (Carnatic singing, accordion) enter a fluid musical conversation while retaining their specificity.

Sometimes shimmering and floating, ominous and dark, ecstatic and hopeful, *Listening Beam Five* emerges from a trio of musicians improvising and listening, responding to each other in the moment. Crystal Mooncone conjures cinematic landscapes anchored by moments of exquisite sonic detail and musicality. *Listening Beam Five* is Crystal Mooncone's fifth album, following *Escape Cone Listening Beam 4* and *Escape Cone Listening Beam III* released by Deep Listening.

Stephen Rush is a Professor of Music at the University of Michigan where he founded the Digital Music Ensemble over 25 years ago, premiering works by La Monte Young, John Cage and Philip Glass. As a performer he has worked with Roscoe Mitchell, Pauline Oliveros, Eugene Chadbourne, Steve Swell and Elliott Sharp, and has orchestral, chamber and solo works recorded on over thirty CD's. He is also the author of "Free Jazz, Harmolodics and Ornette Coleman," a book of

extensive interviews with Ornette Coleman and analyses of compositions/transcriptions of Harmolodic music.

Chris Peck is a composer, computer musician, improviser, and songwriter with a longstanding engagement as a collaborator with contemporary dance and performance. Recent projects have included co-creations of music-dance works with LA-based choreographer Milka Djordjevich (*MASS* at The Kitchen, NYC in 2015) and Brussels-based choreographer Eleanor Bauer (*MEYOUICYCLE* at Kunstenfestivaldesarts in 2016). Peck teaches music courses at the Global Arts Studies Program at the University of California Merced, where he also directs the Experimental Inter-Arts Ensemble.

Jon Moniaci is a composer, musician and software engineer who frequently collaborates with dance makers. His music incorporates acoustic and electronic textures and often relies on flexible and improvisatory structures. In 2011 he received a New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award for his score for choreographer Beth Gill’s *Electric Midwife*.

Lyn Goeringer serves as assistant professor of composition at MSU’s College of Music. She is an intermedia composer who works with video, sound, and light. She creates video art for gallery installation, live performance, and dance. Her work is often playful but complex, engaging with everyday objects toward abstract results. Goeringer taught at Oberlin Conservatory in the TIMARA program from 2012-2015. She received her Ph.D. from Brown University in 2011, and an MFA from Bard College in 2005. Goeringer has a joint appointment in Film Studies in the Department of English and in the College of Music.

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