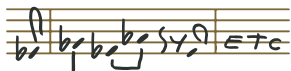


WHAT IS NOW WHAT IS NEXT

"Ars Nova
Workshop has
made Philadelphia
a welcome stop
for premier avant-
garde jazz."

—Spin



ARS NOVA
WORKSHOP

PHILADELPHIA





THIS IS OUR MISSION AND THIS IS WHAT WE DO

"Curatorial
brilliance"
—Downbeat

Through collaboration and passionate investment, **ARS NOVA WORKSHOP** elevates the profile and expands the boundaries of jazz and contemporary music in Philadelphia.

40+
Concerts
a year

We present, on average, 40+ concerts per year, featuring the biggest names in jazz and contemporary music.

Sold Out

More than half of our concerts are sold-out shows.



We operate through partnerships—with venues, other non-profits, and local and national makers, visionaries, and creatives.



We present in spaces throughout Philadelphia with a wide range of capacities, from 100 to 1,300 and more.



We are masters at matching the artist with the venue, creating rich context and the appropriate environment for deep listening.

OUR CURATORIAL AND PROGRAMMING AMBITIONS

Our logo incorporates a reproduction of a musical line: the iconic title riff from John Coltrane's manuscript of "A Love Supreme." While Ars Nova is indebted to this piece and the moment it represents for many reasons, we are especially drawn to the unassuming "ETC." at the end.



Think of everything that "ETC." can do, promise, and point to: "A Love Supreme" takes off and becomes a new entity, spreading love and possibility and healing and joy and curiosity and discovery and a deeply spiritual present—no longer "just" a phenomenal piece of music that was recorded in a studio one day, but an anthem, a call to a future, a brain-seed in the form of an ear-worm. "A Love Supreme" marks a profound turning point for Coltrane. Already recognized as a visionary, Coltrane from this point on begins his journey down the path of "free jazz"—or even "the freest jazz." This piece is an affirmation, a statement of potential, a sly doorway to a world of mind-blowing possibility. It is also the beginning of a new practice—not just a single step in a trajectory of new compositions that bring us Ascension, Meditations, and Om, but an establishment of a new relationship to the music. His untimely death cut that practice short, but the promise he articulated could not be forgotten.

Ars Nova Workshop finds a deep affirmation in this ETC., and we take to heart its transcendence of limits and promise of discovery. We see it as encapsulating everything that we would like to strive to do—exploring all of the ways in which jazz and improvisation are practices that construct a world, not merely describe it. We want to see that world, and we plan on focusing our efforts on helping it come to be.

WHAT IS NOW



CREATIVE PRODUCING: LOVERS (FOR PHILADELPHIA)

We commissioned “guitar hero” Nels Cline—of underground fame, and also the guitarist for Wilco—to arrange a selection of songs drawn from the rich musical and cultural history of Philadelphia, as an extension of his “Lovers” project (released by Blue Note in 2016). After a year spent traveling to Philadelphia for research and discovery, Nels brought his 17-piece orchestra to premiere the collection at Union Transfer in June 2018. We produced an elegant 80-page book of essays on some of the research finds, which every audience member received free. Nels also worked with the brewers at Tired Hands to produce a special (pink!) beer, which was on tap for the performance.



**JAZZ NIGHT
IN AMERICA**

Lovers (for Philadelphia) was picked up by NPR's Jazz Night in America, for both radio broadcast and full-length online video.

The program only produces four full-length recordings a year, and two of those are always at Jazz at Lincoln Center—so this was quite the coup for Ars Nova and for Philadelphia!

OUR FESTIVAL: THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION OF JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

In 2017, we inaugurated a major new music festival: The October Revolution of Jazz & Contemporary Music (or OctRev, for short), named in homage to a groundbreaking festival put together in 1964 by the legendary Bill Dixon. *The New York Times* called our premiere OctRev “a State of the Union for free improvisation and avant-garde composition, and also a statement of potential...an intergenerational sweep of experimentalists...”. We continue to present a four-day opportunity for deep listening to the most adventurous musical minds alive, every October.

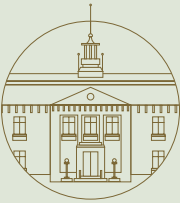


“It’s easily
the jazz
event of
the season”

—*The Key*

**JAZZ AND
NOT JAZZ**





"[Ars Nova Workshop's New Paths festival] is a textbook embodiment... of a more site-specific and curatorial approach [to presenting music]"

—*New York Times*

SITE-SPECIFIC WORK

ANW has made a name through presenting the most interesting musicians in environments that help bring layers of context and meaning to their work. Our "New Paths" festival raised the bar on that practice: we offered a variety of unusual spaces to musicians to develop projects that could work within them. John Zorn opted to play one of the largest organs in the country at Girard College Chapel. William Parker wrote a suite of music dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King that he performed in the chapel at the First Unitarian Church, where King first heard a lecture on Gandhi's and Thoreau's ideas on civil disobedience. Other sites included the Barnes Foundation, the American Swedish Historical Museum, the German Society of Pennsylvania's Homer Memorial Library, and the St. Francis de Sales Auditorium.

We are continuing this exploration, now working on a major project with The Woodlands, the historic cemetery that is also the largest open space in West Philadelphia. Recognizing the site's natural beauty and sense of remove from the hectic urban pace, we are considering programs that explore the daily, yearly, and life-long cycles that we experience, recognizing and working in partnership with the many cultures represented in the neighborhoods around the site.



PODCAST

We are currently beginning production on a new podcast co-produced by Alex Lewis (The Dig, Malcolm Gladwell, NPR, etc.), one that will explore the music and the fascinating histories—and futures—of the artists who create it. Our concerts, while vital to our mission, give us a chance to share only a small spectrum of the minds and practices of these talented and insightful musicians. We want the community to see the rich, complex, inventive lives of these artists.



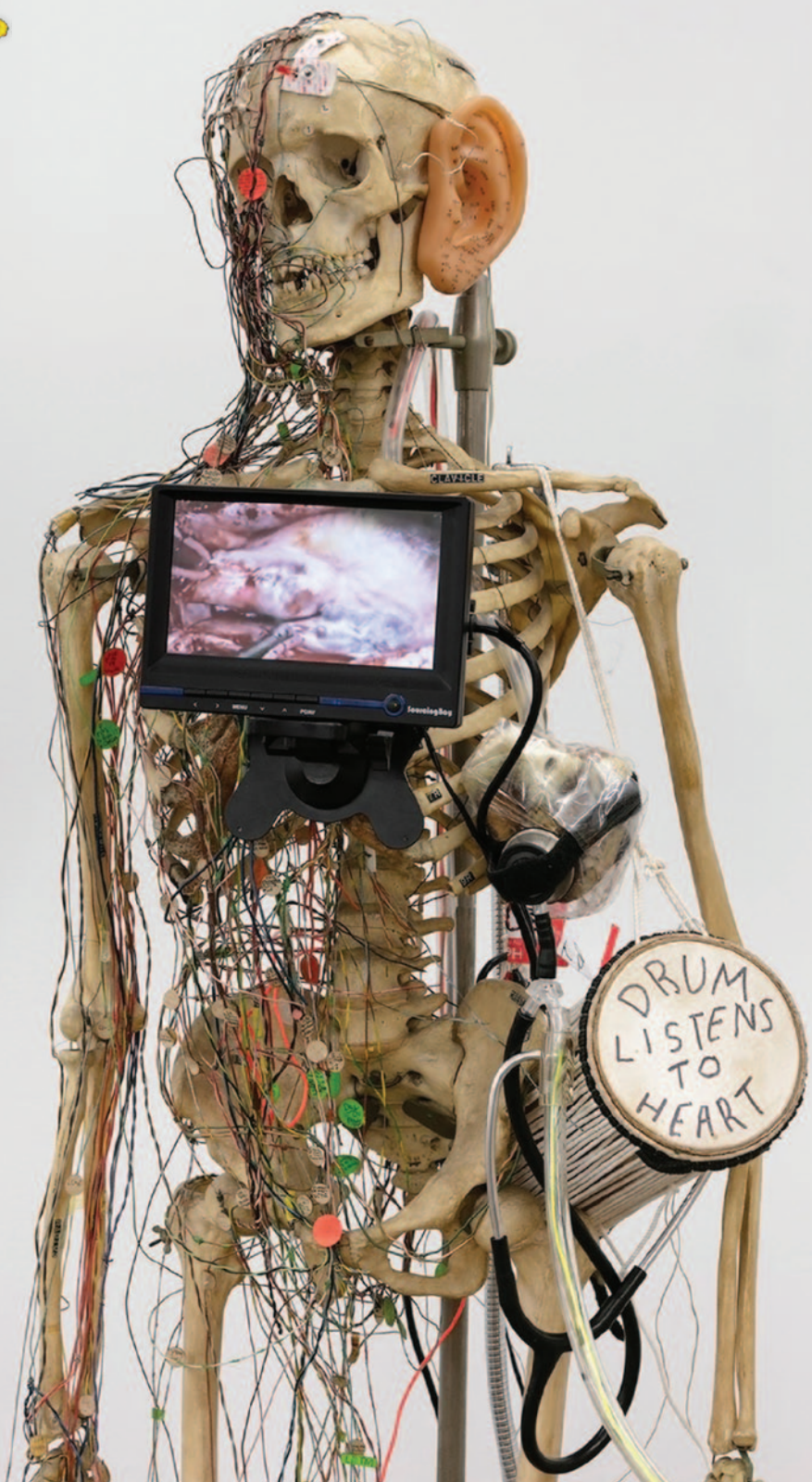
EXHIBITIONS: MILFORD GRAVES

ANW also loves to explore the intersections of jazz with other forms of inquiry and cultural production. In this spirit, we are undertaking a multi-faceted, multi-media exhibition on the life and work of Milford Graves. Milford's extraordinary history has led him from freeing the drum set as a pioneer in the free jazz movement (and playing at John Coltrane's funeral) to a life of understanding the nature of rhythm and how it manifests itself in the world—especially in human physiology and, consequently, in healing. We will be working with Milford over the course of this year to develop the exhibition, which will be opening sometime in early 2020.



RECORDINGS

ANW's concerts have been recorded since nearly the first day we offered them, and we now have an impressive archive of studio-quality recordings of some of the greatest musicians of this century and the last. These include some final performances of musical greats, some one-time-only collaborations, and other uniquely valuable moments. We are also making new recordings of landmark pieces—for instance, we recently were able to bring an all-star 17-piece ensemble, led by Bobby Zankel, into a state-of-the-art studio to record a work commissioned from the late NEA Jazz Master Muhal Richard Abrams. Once mixed and pressed, this will be released through a small label—and we are prepared to release other recordings from our archive.



DRUM
LISTENS
TO
HEART



MERCHANDISE

We produce CDs, vinyl, and cassettes, as well as t-shirts, posters, tote bags, and more. From our “Lovers” book to our “Death’s Headquarters” tees, we are creating ways to fulfill the demand.

OUTREACH: BROAD STREET MINISTRY ARTIST RESIDENCY



Last year, we were able to bring world-renowned trio Hear In Now (featuring the Art Ensemble of Chicago’s Tomeka Reid) to perform for the guests of the Broad Street Ministry. These are people facing the most severe challenges: poverty, housing and food insecurity, and more. The artist residency was able to bring healing, hope, and creativity to hundreds of BSM’s guests at their midday meals. We hope to continue this program, pending securing funding.



“Ars Nova Workshop...has been bringing forward-looking jazz and experimental music to the city for the last 17 years.”

—*Jazz Times* (2017)

WHAT IS NEXT



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

With connections to some of the world's greatest improvisers and composers, ANW is uniquely positioned to offer high-level opportunities for lifelong education—to professionals, students, and lay music-lovers of all ages. We have cultivated a working relationship with the Creative Music Studio, and we are currently envisioning an inclusive “jazz camp”.



ENSEMBLE/TOURING CONSORTIUM

As part of an effort to raise the “jazz profile” of Philadelphia, we are planning to put together a namesake ensemble of the city's most adventurous musicians, which will tour the country and perhaps abroad. They could be hosted by several like-minded presenters around the country, with whom we are currently discussing the creation of a “progressive jazz touring consortium.”



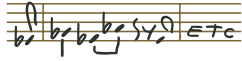
“BODY & SOUL”

Perhaps our most ambitious vision for programming is a comprehensive, ongoing series of events that explore the connection between jazz, music, and improvisation and other disciplines and ventures. What effect does jazz have on the developing mind? How does music help us understand natural phenomena? Can improvisation improve healing outcomes? These are just examples of the vast field of inquiry that could become opportunities for workshops and other presentations.



VENUE

Finally, in spite of our love of collaborations and the freedom that working across the city gives us, we also often feel the need to have a place as a home-base from which to create a richer jazz “scene” in Philadelphia. We are exploring ways that might happen.



ARS NOVA WORKSHOP

PHILADELPHIA

Four times
named "Best Local
Jazz Series" in the
City Paper

