

Chris Jentsch...

...is a Brooklyn-based composer, bandleader, and guitarist working primarily in Jazz and Contemporary Improvisational Forms.

As a composer he has been the recipient of grants or commissions from the Maelstrom Percussion Ensemble, the Penfield Commission Project, American Composers Forum (2), the Composers Assistance Program of the American Music Center (2), Meet the Composer, New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), Ucross Foundation, and The Commission Project. Currently Jentsch is in pre-production for a series of concerts and recordings in 2007-08 related to his NYSCA Commission: *Cycles Suite featuring Mike Kaupa*, being written for his 17-piece ensemble, Jentsch Group Large.

As a bandleader and sideman Jentsch has performed throughout the Northeast and Florida. He appears as a guitarist on the CD *John Cage, Volume 11* (Mode Records 41). Based in Brooklyn, New York since 1999, his main ensemble is Jentsch Group in its trio, quartet, chamber, or large configuration. Performances in New York City have included the Cornelia Street Café, Internet Café, Brooklyn Brewery, World Turning Festival (Medicine Show Theatre), Chelsea Piers, Symphony Space, the Rock Theatre, Barbès, and the Knitting Factory.

His first CD *Media Event* was released in 1998 and features his working trio from that era. The second, *Miami Suite* (1999) presents original works for large jazz ensemble. *Brooklyn Suite* was released on Fleur de Son Records in 2007, a feature for the composer's various electric guitar sounds and textures combined with the forces of the large ensemble. A new Jentsch Group Quartet record (*Fractured Pop*) will also follow next year.

Jentsch holds various liberal arts and jazz guitar degrees from Gettysburg College, the New England Conservatory, and the Eastman School of Music, including the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Jazz Composition from the University of Miami. He is published by the University of Northern Colorado Press, Advance Music, and eREALBOOK.com.

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"Jentsch displays contemporary guitar mastery throughout (his CD *Media Event*). When you think of the traditions of the guitar in late

20th century, 'emotion' is the word that is often conjured. For Jentsch, add intellect, substance, and style to that guitar-emotion definition – a delicacy and charm that spans the history of the music." - AllAboutJazz.com

"Brooklyn Suite (is) Chris Jentsch's sublime set of interwoven themes and expansive movements for guitar and orchestra..." - Howard Mandel

"...a very promising guitarist. On 'Exploring the Planet' Jentsch fires up his electric for a snaky, delay decorated solo. All kinds of cool noises come out of Jentsch's guitar." - CADENCE Magazine

"Skilled NYC electric guitarist recalls Bill Frisell's more aggressive side, both in his use of effects (distortion, delay, volume pedal) and in his jarringly inserted open-string notes. His work in acoustic settings ranges from straight-ahead and boppish to intense and driving, without ever getting totally 'out.'" - Listen.com

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