

# ~~SPLINTER~~ SPLINTER REEDS

681 62<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oakland, CA, USA  
[www.splinterreeds.com](http://www.splinterreeds.com)



Splinter Reeds (left to right): Kyle Bruckmann, Bill Kalinkos, Dana Jessen, Jeff Anderle, and Nicki Roman  
Photo Credit: Lenny Gonzalez

## Mission

---



Splinter Reeds is dedicated to the creation and presentation of new works for reed quintet through collaborative work with composers and musicians across multiple fields, as well as compelling performances for adventurous and curious audiences.

"This ensemble consumes new music voraciously."

- *San Francisco Classical Voice*

## Ensemble Bio

---

Splinter Reeds is the West Coast's first reed quintet, formed in 2013 with the coming together of five colleagues highly active in multiple facets of the New Music scene throughout the Bay Area and internationally. The sum of their wide ranges of experience – in settings including free jazz, improvisation, electronic music, pop, punk, and metal as well as classical – has enabled them to rapidly zero in on a distinct aesthetic identity. Distinguishing themselves amongst even the relatively small number of professional reed quintets currently active worldwide, the ensemble is explicitly dedicated to cutting-edge composition and expanding the existing reed quintet repertoire through the collaborative development of new works by emerging and established composers.

As a relatively new chamber music genre, the reed quintet is an evolutionary detour from the traditional woodwind quintet with the advantages of a more closely related instrument family. Splinter Reeds has explored the genre's expansive possibilities in close work with such composers as Amadeus Regucera, Eric Wubbels, Sky Macklay, Paula Matthusen, Marc Mellits, Michael Gordon, Theresa Wong and Ken Ueno, while presenting North American premieres by European-based composers Dai Fujikura, Matthew Shlomowitz, and Yannis Kyriakides, among others.

The group's commissions are featured alongside other key repertoire on two full albums, the second of which – dubbed "impressive" by Steve Smith in the *New Yorker* – was released by New Focus Recordings in 2019. Notable performances have included appearances at Time:Spans (NY), Music Current (Dublin, Ireland), Vancouver New Music, Frequency Series at Chicago's Constellation, Festival of New American Music (Sacramento), Blue Sage Center for the Arts (Paonia, CO), and Indexical (Santa Cruz), as well as numerous academic institutions across the country.

# Selected Works

---

## Written or Adapted for Splinter Reeds

Ryan Brown – *Pinched* (2014)  
Kyle Bruckmann – *Mitigating Factors* (2001/2014)  
Laura Cetilia – *adrift* (2019)  
Alex Christie – *Centrifuge* (2019)  
Kittie Cooper – *Superlatives* (2017)  
Erik DeLuca – *3 Songs, 3 Interludes* (2015)  
Omar Fraire – *5\_aerify arid conduits | inlandOutlines* (2018)  
Terry L Greene II – *The Tyranny of What Should Be* (2017)  
Jordan Glenn – *My Bike* (2011/2015)  
Michael Gordon – *tall grass* (2022)  
Michael Gordon – *In a Strange Land* (2019) for Roomful of Teeth, Splinter Reeds, San Francisco Contemporary Players  
Cara Haxo – *Exercices* (2017)  
Terri Hron – *Birch Patterns* (2019)  
Tom Johnson (arr. Dana Jessen) – *Narayana's Cows* (1989/2013)  
György Ligeti (arr. Jonathan Russell) – *Hungarian Rock* (1978/2018)  
Sky Macklay – *Choppy* (2017)  
Paula Matthusen – *Antenna Studies* (2018)  
Lansing McLoskey – *#playlist* (2018)  
Marc Mellits – *Splinter* (2014)  
Ted Moore – *feedback vii: speak, contain* (2017)  
Aaron Novik – *Bobu Rexazobe* (2014)  
Chris Pitsiokos – *Four Unisons* (2019)  
Sam Pluta - *The Atens* (2022)  
Amadeus Regucera – *Absence in relief* (2020/21)  
Ben Luca Robertson – *Triac* (2018)  
Ken Ueno – *Babbling* (2016)  
Juan Carlos Vasquez – *Convection* (2018)  
Evan Williams - *The Grand Unified Theory of Everything* (2017)  
Theresa Wong – *Letters To A Friend* (2017)  
Anna Webber (arr. Kyle Bruckmann) – *Rectangles 2* (2016/2019)  
Matthew Welch – *Shapeshifter Dialogues* (2019)  
Eric Wubbels – *Auditory Scene Analysis II* (2016)  
Jon Yu – *Sutures* (2020)

## Existing Core Repertoire

Carlos de Castellarnau – *Devenir* (2013)  
Dai Fujikura – *Wind Skein* (2013)  
Jannik Giger – *Contaminare* (2013)  
Mario Godoy – *create. process.* (2018)  
Yannis Kyriakides – *hypothetical islands* (2012)  
Ned McGowan – *Wood Burn* (2005)  
Niloufar Nourbakhsh – *Firing Squad* (2018)  
Matthew Shlomowitz – *Line & Length* (2007)

Splinter Reeds is able to present varying contemporary programs comprising the above selected works that may be catered to the interests of presenting organizations. In addition to the chamber works listed, the ensemble has presented solos, duos, trios, and quartets in the past featuring composers Michael Gordon, Lee Hyla, Joseph Kudirka, Paula Matthusen, Liza Lim, Simon Steen-Andersen, Bruno Montovani, and Alex Mincek, among others.

# Themed Concert Programs

---

## Cane and Current: Electroacoustic Works

*Mitigating Factors* (2001/2014) by Kyle Bruckmann (12')

*Triac* (2018) by Ben Luca Robertson (9')

*hypothetical islands* (2012) by Yannis Kyriakides (15')

*Antenna Studies* (2018) by Paula Matthusen (25' for full version; 12' for chamber version)

## Perceptual Organization of Sound

*Line and Length* (2007) by Matthew Shlomowitz (9')

*Choppy* (2017) by Sky Macklay (10')

*Wind Skein* (2013) by Dai Fujikura (8')

*hypothetical islands* (2012) by Yannis Kyriakides (15')

*Auditory Scene Analysis II* (2016) by Eric Wubbels (10')

## Patterns, Rhythms, and Cows

*Pinched* (2014) by Ryan Brown (5')

*Splinter* (2014) by Marc Mellits (14')

*Wood Burn* (2005) by Ned McGowan (10')

*Letters to a Friend* (2017) by Theresa Wong (6')

*Line and Length* (2007) by Matthew Shlomowitz (9')

*Narayana's Cows* (1989/2013) by Tom Johnson (arr. Dana Jessen) (15')

## Heroic Feats

*Babbling* (2016) by Ken Ueno (15')

*We Speak Etruscan* (1992) by Lee Hyla (8')

*Choppy* (2017) by Sky Macklay (10')

*Press Release* (1992) by David Lang (10')

*Hungarian Rock* (1978/2018) by György Ligeti arr. Jonathan Russell (6')

*Ali* (2010) by Alex Mincek (7')

*Auditory Scene Analysis II* (2016) by Eric Wubbels (10')

## West Coast Composers

*Pinched* (2014) by Ryan Brown (5')

*Absence in relief* (2020/21) by Amadeus Regucera (12')

*Babbling* (2016) by Ken Ueno (15')

*Mitigating Factors* (2001/2014) by Kyle Bruckmann (12')

*Letters to a Friend* (2017) by Theresa Wong (6')

*3 Songs / 3 Interludes* (2015) by Erik DeLuca (15')

## Children's / Family Concert

*3 Songs / 3 Interludes* (2015) by Erik DeLuca (15')

*Line and Length* (2007) by Matthew Shlomowitz (9')

*Letters to a Friend* (2017) by Theresa Wong (6')

*Narayana's Cows* (1989/2013) by Tom Johnson (arr. Dana Jessen) (15')

# Educational Programs

---

Splinter Reeds offers a variety of classes and presentations in chamber music, instrumental performance, professional development, and contemporary music topics. These programs are tailored to students in pre-professional settings, as well as the general public, and can function as stand alone events or serve to enhance a Splinter Reeds performance or residency. Since 2020, they are equipped to present virtual residencies and streaming performances.



## Composition Students:

- Readings, workshops, and recordings of student composers' works at the undergraduate and graduate level. A single session would entail a composition reading, discussion and feedback of the work, and a second reading/recording of the piece. A longer collaborative project would culminate in a concert of premieres featuring student works.
- Lecture/demonstration about writing for the reed quintet, including individual instrument techniques, extended techniques, and notation, as well as examples from the existing repertoire.

## Performance Students:

- Woodwind chamber music coaching and rehearsal techniques at the undergraduate and graduate level. Chamber music coaching may be presented in a masterclass setting or as a private coaching.
- Individual instrument lessons and studio masterclasses in clarinet, bass clarinet, oboe, saxophone, and bassoon.
- Individual instrument lecture/demonstration highlighting extended techniques and contemporary solo repertoire.

## All Students:

- Arts leadership and professional development topics relevant to all music students. Past sessions have included discussions surrounding life after college, logistics of starting and sustaining a chamber ensemble, and practical skills for a successful career in music.
- Contemporary improvisation workshop (interactive) that includes exercises for both advanced and beginning improvisers.

## General Public:

- Pre-concert talks and audience Q&As with members of the ensemble that provide further insight to the performance as well as the history and process surrounding a compositions' development.

# Discography

---



Splinter Reeds: *Hypothetical Islands* (2019)  
New Focus Recordings

Ambitious reed quintet Splinter Reeds presents a bracing program of new works written for the group by composers Sky Macklay, Matthew Shlomowitz, Cara Haxo, Eric Wubbels, Theresa Wong, and Yannis Kyriakides. All of the works display an envelope pushing impulse that stretches the boundaries of this traditional instrumental format, carving out new repertoire and provoking new aesthetic perspectives.

Available through New Focus Recordings, Amazon, iTunes, Bandcamp, Naxos Direct, Arkiv Music, and streaming services such as Spotify.

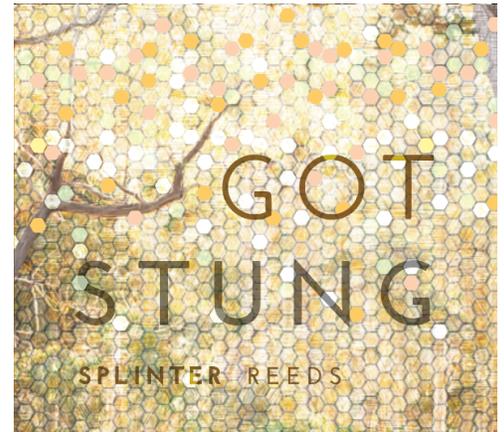
---

Splinter Reeds: *Got Stung* (2015)  
Splinter Recordings

"With this release of six new and recent works, Splinter Reeds, a quintet from the San Francisco Bay area, reveals the richness of color inherent in a small, all-reed ensemble." - *Avant Music News*

Splinter Reeds' debut album features new and recent compositions by Marc Mellits, Erik DeLuca, Ryan Brown, Kyle Bruckmann, Ned McGowan and Jordan Glenn.

Available through CD Baby, Amazon, iTunes, and Spotify.



# Contact

---

General Email  
info@splinterreeds.com

Booking  
Dana Jessen:  
danajessen@gmail.com  
(440) 420-9498

Website  
www.splinterreeds.com

Postal Mail  
681 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Oakland, CA. 94609  
USA

---



Splinter Reeds is fiscally sponsored through InterMusic SF.

The ensemble has received support for commissions from Chamber Music America's Classical Commissioning Program, New Music USA, the Barlow Endowment, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and the Musical Grant Program through InterMusic SF. They have received operational support from the Amphion Foundation, the Copland Foundation, and the Ditson Fund.

Splinter Reeds  
www.splinterreeds.com