
DEREK BAILEY AND ANDREA CENTAZZO

Drops
Ictus 003

LLOYD GARBER

Energy Patterns
Onari 001

Derek Bailey and Lloyd Garber belong to a new generation of guitarists bent on raising the guitar's expressive range above the fuzz-toned, diatonic barricades of rock and fusion music. Although Bailey's visceral approach contrasts with Garber's conceptual approach, the two musicians employ a common vocabulary of tone clusters, harmonics, and plucking and scraping lightly-pressed strings, as well as a number of other expressive techniques.

Bailey's latest release, "Drops", a collaboration with percussionist Andrea Centazzo, consists of nine spontaneously-sculpted sound structures predicated on a concise, shared stream of musical consciousness. In his non-linear approach to the instrument, Bailey plucks, slashes, and rings sequences of sounds which Centazzo complements with clicking, chattering percussion work. At times, the performances sound like percussion duets with melodic overtones. The acuity that Bailey and Centazzo bring to their collaboration, however, produces inherently musical results.

Whereas Bailey improvises in a compressed stream of consciousness, Garber improvises more deliberately, developing one idea until another evolves from it. The chart on the back of his "Energy Patterns" album illustrates the sequential approach he employs in *Prepared* and provides a key to understanding the other pieces on the album. Each stage of his improvisation is an 'event' based on one area of his musical vocabulary which evolves into other 'events' based on other areas of his vocabulary. A sequence of long, resonant tones, for example might lead into rapid, staccato runs and culminate with an abrupt passage of harmonics and tone clusters. Garber sometimes incorporates 'extra-musical' elements into his improvisations and subordinates his guitar work to them. *Voyage Of The Desert Weirdo*, for example, juxtaposes taped radio broadcasts with a sometimes flurrying guitar improvisation to suggest his imaginary character's movement. The 'extra-musical' elements Garber employs become essential elements of his highly individualistic music.

"Drops" and "Energy Patterns" showcase Bailey's and Garber's unique explorations of the guitar. Although their work defies comparison with the guitar's more orthodox practitioners, it will, no doubt, alter future musicians' ap-

proaches to the guitar in much the same way that the vanguard of any art form alters its mainstream. ("Drops" can be ordered from Ictus Records, P.O. Box 59, Pistoia, Italy. "Energy Patterns" can be ordered from Sackville Recordings, 893 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 2H2, Canada.) — Vernon Frazer

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