

Aram Shelton

Saxophonist, Improviser, Composer

Aram Shelton is an improviser and composer who performs on saxophone, clarinets and live electronics. He plays with a distinct, harmonically rich sound and develops musical thoughts through constant motion, tonal shifts and complex sounds alongside clear melodic and rhythmic constructs. His vocabulary utilizes the range of extended techniques including multiphonics & harmonics, circular breathing, wind sounds and an exploration of the outer ranges of the instrument. He focuses on creative music grounded in and influenced by the rich history of avant-jazz and free improvisation. He's been a member of the creative music communities in Chicago, the San Francisco Bay Area, Copenhagen and Budapest.

Shelton first became known for his work in Chicago with Jason Adasiewicz' Rolldown, the Fast Citizens and Dragons 1976. He then developed his music further in California where he created music with the groups Gold Age, Ton Trio, Cylinder and Aram Shelton Quartet.

Along the way he has worked with many important musicians from the Bay Area, Chicago and New York scenes including Larry Ochs, Henry Kaiser, Fred Frith, Mark Dresser, Kjell Nordeson, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Tim Daisy, Theresa Wong, Kyle Bruckmann, Weasel Walter, Mary Halvorson, Damon Smith, Ken Vandermark, William Winant and James Fei. He has performed in Europe with musicians including Axel Dörner, Håkon Berre, Grensó István, Miklos Szilveszter, Adam Pultz Melbye, Carl Ludwig Hübsch, Martin Blume, Jasper Stadhouders, Magda Mayas and Tony Buck.

Shelton's past performances in Europe, Canada and the United States include the Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, the Switchboard Music Festival, Soundwave, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Suoni per il Popolo Festival and the Krakow Autumn Jazz Festival. He has led workshops at the Evergreen State College, the Luzern Jazz School, through NEXMAP and at UC Santa Cruz. As a curator he founded the Active Music Series and Active Music Festival. His playing and music has been documented through more than two dozen albums that are available through Delmark, Clean Feed, Not Two, Astral Spirits, Cuneiform, 482 Music and his own Singlespeed Music.

More information, audio and video available at: <http://www.aramshelton.com/>

Photo by Peter Gannushkin.

