

PRESS RELEASE:

Contact: Jonathan Glasier
3932 Alameda Place

San Diego, CA 92103

(619) 299-7809

"New Sounds in New Shapes" exhibit at the Hollywood Bowl Museum opening this Thursday April 30 at 7 pm features new acoustic instruments and scales created by ten artists from the southwest. Four of the "sonic artists" are San Diegians: Harry Partch, Ivor Darreg, Bill Wesley and Jonathan Glasier, co-curator of the exhibit. Featuring new instruments and sound sculptures, "New Sounds in New Shapes" presents the field of "Sonic Art" from the vantage of visual artist incorporating sound as a new parameter, to the musician, who, needing a sound-source to manifest the new scale, becomes the visual artist out of necessity. At the center of all of this is Harry Partch, who called himself a "musician seduced into carpentry. His "corporeal music ethic" brings together many different cultures creating a multimedia ritual theater completely of his own design. "New Sounds in New Shapes" features the Quadrangularus Reversum, a seven-feet tall by seven-feet wide marimba shaped like a diamond in the center and flanked by two alto sections of bars on either side. The Eucal Blossom was the last major instrument Partch made before he died (1974). Like the "Quad" the main support is a eucalyptus branch with a circular holder of three rows of bamboo sections which are struck with mallets.

Bill Wesley, a self-taught inventor, was challenged by the fact that the traditional keyboards of the piano and guitar, are limited. His "Array M'bira and other "Array Instruments" are built on the precept that "Neighbors should be friends." All the "friendly" consonant intervals of the octave and the fourths and fifths are adjacent to each other. So any five adjacent rows will be a traditional pentatonic scale (CDEGA). Bill has taken the traditional African steel prong instrument and created one of the most harmonious sounding and easiest to play instruments ever!

Ivor Darreg (B. 5/5/17) built his first instrument when he was living here in San Diego in 1937. The Electronic Keyboard Oboe (not in the show), is an example of one of the very first synthesizers. Ivor's "Megalyra Group of Instruments" ; Megalyra, Drone, and Hobnailed Newel Post are variations on the slide guitar and look like "Mondrian Totem poles" The painted fret lines relate to both the twelve-equal system and a just intonation system where the sharps are red and the flats are blue (see "Megalyra Group" material. The bass Megalyra, has a wonderfully full rich tone that can only be achieved through sympathetic strings and open intervals. Ivor has created

a "Xenharmonic Alliance" with over one hundred people who are interested in the proliferation of "non-twelve".

Jonathan Glasier, director of Interval Foundation and former owner of the Sonic Art Gallery (1987-1990) is the co-curator of "New Sounds in New Shapes." His "Tri-rainstick" is a wall mounted rainstick that rotates. Jonathan (b.3/25/45, BA UCSD, Music), has founded a number of musical institutions in San Diego including: "Making Music Music School" (1971-74) a music school for all ages. "ID (Improvisational Development) Project" (1975-77), Interval/Exploring the Sonic Spectrum, editor (1978), the Interval Foundation (1979) a non-profit organization dedicated to the promulgation of new scales and new instruments, EFNIR (Exhibition/Festival of New Instrumental Resources 1979-83) cosponsored by the Center for Music Experiment at UCSD, and the Sonic Arts Gallery, a hands-on gallery of the work of sonic artists. Jonathan teaches voice and ritual music making at his studio in North Park and at elementary schools. He is currently working on a Musical Playground at Angier Elementary with artist Paul Hobson. As an Artist-in Residence (1984-85) at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, he built the "Pentaphone" a five-sided, five-toned, five-material (marble, wood, bamboo, magnesium, and aluminum) mallet instrument which is designed to bring everyone into the music making process. Jonathan is married to Elizabeth (m.1976) and has two step-children. His mother, Alletah, taught High School English in S.D.. His father John S. Glasier was a member of the San Diego Symphony (1950-1977) and they improvised music together. Harry Partch lived with the family in El Centro when Jonathan was three.