

Spark of Being

An image-driven film with live music based on Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

An evening-length multi-media piece for film and live music will ruminate on the dialogue between humanity and technology - revealing the influence of scientific invention on human society, and conversely, the humanizing of technology to unexpected ends. The film component will explore inventions from ancient to modern using raw archival footage and new material. The music will be created through a combination of live, improvising players in the Keystone sextet and computer generated sources, hinting at jazz, ambient and groove-oriented sounds. It will be composed in five or six major sections, in parallel to the development of the film component.

Commissioned by Stanford Lively Arts and making its world premiere in April 2010, Spark of Being incorporates archival visual elements and newly developed sound components culled by Morrison and Douglas from the archives of the Cantor Center for the Arts, the Hoover Institution, CCRMA, and other sources on the Stanford campus. Walker Art will present the piece in October 2010.

Grammy-nominated jazz musician **Dave Douglas** is arguably the most prolific and original trumpeter/composer of his generation. From his New York base, Douglas has continued to earn lavish acclaim including trumpeter, composer, and Jazz "Artist of the Year" by such organizations as the New York Jazz Awards, Down Beat, and Jazz Times. His solo recording career began in 1983 with *Parallel Worlds on Soul Note* and he has since released over thirty recordings. In 2005, after seven critically-acclaimed albums for Bluebird/RCA, Douglas launched his own record label, Greenleaf Music. The same year,

he was honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship. On Greenleaf, Douglas has released albums with his long standing Quintet, the electronic sextet Keystone, his Brass Ecstasy group featuring trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba and drums, and the mixed chamber ensemble Nomad. His latest release, *A Single Sky*, is a collaboration with Jim McNeely and the Frankfurt Radio Bigband showcasing Douglas' first large-scale big band arrangements, and past Douglas works reimagined by McNeely for big band.

Bill Morrison is a New York-based filmmaker and artist, best known for his experimental collage film *Decasia* (2002). He is a member of Ridge Theater and the founder of Ryoichi Pictures. Bill Morrison's films have been screened at festivals, museums and concert halls worldwide, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Urban Film Symposium, The Tate Modern, London, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles. Eight of his titles have been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art. He has been commissioned to create films for some of the most important composers of his time, including John Adams, Gavin Bryars, Bill Frisell, Michael Gordon, Henryk Gorecki, David Lang, Harry Partch, Steve Reich and Julia Wolfe. Morrison is a Guggenheim fellow and has received the Alpert Award. His work with Ridge Theater has been recognized with two Bessie awards and an Obie Award. In 2003 he was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists program.

Keystone:

DJ OLIVE
turntables and computer

DAVE DOUGLAS
trumpet

MARCUS STRICKLAND
tenor saxophone

GENE LAKE
drums

BRAD JONES
electric bass

ADAM BENJAMIN
rhodes

Artist Website
davedouglas.com/spark

IMN Artist Page
imnworld.com/davedouglas

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INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC
NETWORK

278 Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
T: 978.283.2883
F: 978.283.2330
imnworld.com