

6 February 2006

## *NEWS RELEASE*

Contact: Holland Hopson  
512/633-1361  
holland@hollandhopson.net  
www.hollandhopson.net  
www.grabrarearts.com

### **GRAB RARE ARTS RELEASES "WITH HIDDEN NOISES" CD BY COMPOSER/SOUND ARTIST HOLLAND HOPSON**

- \* CD Release Party Includes "With Hidden Noises" Multi-channel Sound Installation \*
- \* Friday, February 24 at 7:00 PM, End of an Ear Records, 2209 C South 1st St, Austin, TX\*

*"...a low-key but varied set that used a time-honored process in which live performace sets off computer processes..." - Allan Kozinn, The New York Times*

*"The variety of sound created, the moving sources and fascinating interplay among those sources made a tremendously complicated live experience out of simple sounds." - Frederick Kaimann, The Birmingham News*

Holland Hopson's second solo album, ***With Hidden Noises***, a Grab Rare Arts release (release date: February 24, 2006), continues his engagement with creating highly-responsive interactive computer programs to make music. He articulates, "I had been building interactive environments for myself and other musicians for over 5 years. 'With Hidden Noises' was my chance to create something that a non-musician could interact with meaningfully and create interesting sounds. The CD grew out of listening to how audiences interacted with the 4-channel surround-sound installation. I wanted to share the experience of being surrounded by these sounds with people who couldn't visit the installation."

Holland began ***With Hidden Noises*** in 2000 during an Artist in Residence program at Harvestworks Digital Media Arts, New York City. While there, he constructed a replica of Marcel Duchamp's 1916 sculpture "With Hidden Noise." The original sculpture contains an unknown object that makes noise when the sculpture is shaken. Holland replaced the mysterious object inside the sculpture with a variety of electronic sensors which allow a computer to respond to the way the object moves when handled. "I had long been fascinated with Duchamp's work," Holland says, "and when I first saw his 'With Hidden Noise' sculpture I remember feeling frustrated that I couldn't pick it up and shake it and hear the sounds it makes. I resolved to make a version that encourages audiences to engage with the work. On the other hand, the silence and distance imposed on the original sculpture by the museum's presentation encouraged me to imagine a wide range of possible sounds the object could create. Many of these sounds found their way into the installation and then onto this CD." The electronic sensors in Holland's installation allow the object to create a staggering variety of sounds, ranging from simple rattles that the original sculpture might have made to spacious, abstract soundscapes that surround the listener. The sounds are generated by custom software written by Holland Hopson using the program MaxMSP from Cycling '74.

The ***With Hidden Noises*** installation was presented at Harvestworks' Machine Visions festival in March 2003. It was shown in Austin in November 2004 as part of the Loft Series curated by the ThomFariCraw collective.

Holland also performs live using the With Hidden Noises sculpture, including an appearance at the Electronic X-travaganza Series curated by composer John King at The Kitchen, New York City in March 2002; Roulette, New York City in November 2002, and the first Performance Series Concert presented by the Austin Museum of Digital Art (AMODA), Austin in August 2003.

#### **About the CD:**

The *With Hidden Noises* CD is a collection of 16 live 'performances' of the installation recorded onto disc. Unlike many electronic music recordings which are constructed piecemeal over a period of time by layering parts on top of each other, the 16 tracks on With Hidden Noises were generated live. "I decided the order of the tracks and made a few cross-fades between them," Holland explains, "but essentially what you hear on the CD are a selection of the sounds you would hear if you visited the installation." Many of the sounds refer to other works by Marcel Duchamp, as filtered through Holland's own aesthetic sensibility. The "Standard Stoppage" tracks, for example, use a random procedure similar to the one Duchamp used to create his work "3 Standard Stoppages." Other tracks make sonic allusions to some of Duchamp's machine-based imagery such as chocolate grinders, flywheels and turntables. The intentionally inscrutable text from the original sculpture along with snippets of text from Duchamp's "Green Box" writings are also included. The texts were performed by artist and singer Nicole Peyrafitte.

*With Hidden Noises* is a binaural CD. The four audio channels from the sound installation were processed with a binaural encoding algorithm to preserve the surround-sound effects of the original installation on a CD. The surround-sound effects are best heard using headphones. The CD's elegant packaging was designed by Travis Weller to evoke the experience of handling Duchamp's sculpture. The front and back covers replicate the text on the top and bottom of the sculpture. Unfolding the packaging reveals an image of a ball of twine, again evoking the original object. The CD was mastered by Doug Ferguson at The Still in Austin, TX.

#### **About Holland Hopson:**

Holland's previous sound installation and sound art work has been presented at the International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), Paris, France; Engine 27, New York City; and the "Crossing the Line" Exhibit at the Queens Museum of Art curated by Stephen Vitiello. Holland has been Artist-in-Residence at Harvestworks, New York City; the Studio for Electro Instrumental Music (STEIM), Amsterdam; the Experimental Studios of Krakow and Katowice, Poland; and the Sonic Arts Research Studio, Vancouver. Holland has collaborated with a number of composers and improvisers including MacArthur 'Genius' Award recipient George Lewis, Chris Mann, Neil Rolnick, and LaDonna Smith. In 1993-1994 Holland recorded environmental sounds on four continents and in over a dozen countries as a fellow of the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. Holland has received grants from Meet the Composer.

As an instrumentalist Holland performs on soprano saxophone, clawhammer banjo and electronics. He often augments his instruments with custom-designed sensor interfaces and performs with his own highly responsive, interactive computer programs. An Austin resident since 2002, Holland regularly performs with a number of Austin-based musicians. He plays soprano saxophone in the free-jazz ECFA Trio led by Carl Smith and in a variety of projects presented by the Austin New Music Co-op. Holland also plays banjo and electronics in the Gates Ensemble whose CD *16 october 2003* was recently reviewed in [The Wire](#) (February 2006). Holland's previous CDs include the solo release *Maps* for soprano saxophone and computer; *Hunting and Gathering* featuring electro-acoustic improvisations with guitarist James Keepnews; and an appearance on Alex Coke's recent release *Iraqnophopia*.

# # #

CDs, JPEGs, and press kits available.