

BEAMS Newsletter fall 2007

Boreal Electroacoustic Music Society



Our BEAMS concert at this year's Works Festival of Art and Design was a big success. The Concrete space on 102 street was packed, and, a first in experimental sound art concerts I can remember, people were dancing! Congrats to John Armstrong and Vinnie Sanregret, Ken Read with Dave Wall, Bill Damur with Don Ross and dancer Theresa Dextrase, and the ECCS trio of Reinhard Berg, Piotr Grella-Mozejko and Jerry Ozipko. Thanks to Amber Rooke and Will Truchon (away now studying architecture at U of Calgary) and all the great volunteers from the Works.

Our next concert is in the Ortona room on November 10. Curator John Armstrong has assembled a great line-up which is now complete. Look for a media release from John soon with all the details.

Our BEAMS memberships automatically make us members of amaas, the Alberta Media Arts Alliance Society, an umbrella group, networking and advocating for some ten, organizations like ours, mostly in the film world. Amaas hosts our web-site and e-mail and runs a great annual media conference among many other great services. A BEAMS board member attends every amaas meeting. Amaas has offered a one time Project Support Grant, and I'm delighted to say that our proposal has been approved. We now have funds to compile a new CD of our members' work. A call for submissions will go out very soon.

BEAMS is an entirely volunteer run organization. If everyone takes a turn helping out, no-one has to do too much. Mostly what we ask for is a few minutes setting up or tearing down a show, or a half hour shift at the door or the bar. If it's been a while since you've volunteered or if you've (gasp!) never helped out at a show, be sure to think about responding to John's call for Nov 10.

A bigger volunteer task is curating shows. There's a lot to do, booking the venue and the acts, handling the finances and promotions, and producing and running the show itself. A couple of board members have pretty reliably taken on the task three or four times a year, but if everyone who enjoys the benefits of the BEAMS community curated one show every five years, we'd be able to support a lot more activity. We're covered for the next few months, but when a call for curators does go out, please give it some careful thought. Look for a list of curator guidelines on the web-site, www.beams.ca

The most important thing you can do as a BEAMS member is to support your fellow artists by coming out to shows, even when you're not performing. See you Nov 10!

Best wishes
Don Ross
President, BEAMS