



The Inquisitive Musician

*The struggle for precedence between the
Kunstpfeifer and the Common Players
presented in a sparkling new comedy*

Translated and adapted by Cindy Bernard & David Hatcher

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...The citizens of a town so impoverished by war would naturally do their best to get their music at the cheapest price, so the rise of the 'beer fiddlers' is not surprising in these circumstances. It is to a play that we owe the liveliest account of the feud between the unofficial and the official players. *Musicus Curiousus, or Battalus, the Inquisitive Musician; the Struggle for Precedence between the Kunst Pfeifer and the Common Players* was published in Freiberg in 1691. This dramatization of the perpetual struggle is ascribed to Johann Kuhnau, Bach's predecessor in Leipzig.

– Henry Raynor, *A Social History of Music from the Middle Ages to Beethoven*

The Players

Prologus / Pickelhering
Count Musophilus
Paulus Harmonicus, Kunstpfeifer
Enantius, Kunstpfeifer
Bona, the innkeeper / Cupido
The Beerfiddlers:
Fiedel-Hänsel / Käthe
Bocks-Märten / Bailiff
Pechmann / Waschebleil
Schiefer-Barthel / White Horse

David Hatcher
Alexander Gray
Guy Richards Smit
Alan Licht
Tracy Williams

Shelley Hirsch
David Watson
Michael Smith
D. Mark Kingsley

Additional Musicians

Kenta Nagai & Okkyung Lee

The Play

ACT ONE

Bona, Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel, Prologus

SCENE 1 (A stage)

SCENE 2 (A beer hall)

The Beerfiddlers drink together.

ACT TWO (A street)

Enantius, Paulus Harmonicus, Prologus

The Kunstpfeifer discuss the state of contemporary music.

ACT THREE (A street)

Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel

The Beerfiddlers lick their wounds.

ACT FOUR (A courtroom)

Count Musophilus, Paulus Harmonicus, Prologus, Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel

The Beerfiddlers & Kunstpfeifer present their cases to the court.

ACT FIVE (Outside the courtroom)

Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel, Prologus
The Beerfiddlers discuss which comedy they should perform.

ACT SIX (A courtroom)

Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel, Prologus, Bona
The Beerfiddlers present the comedy of Waschebleil to the court, in which Waschebleil attempts to seduce Käthe, is repelled, there is a change of heart and a white horse is accidentally stolen.

Waschebleil Act 1, Scene 1: Home of Waschebleil
Waschebleil Act 1, Scene 2: Garden of Käthe's employer
Waschebleil Act 1, Scene 3: Home of Käthe

Waschebleil Act 2, Scene 1: Pickelhering
Waschebleil Act 2, Scene 2: Outside the home of Waschebleil

Waschebleil Act 3, Scene 1: A road
Waschebleil Act 3, Scene 2: A courtroom
Waschebleil Act 3, Scene 3: A road

ACT SEVEN (A courtroom)

Fiedel-Hänsel, Bocks-Märten, Pechmann, Schiefer-Barthel, Prologus, Count Musophilus, Paulus Harmonicus
Musophilus makes a decision and issues a decree.

Mitstreiter

Artist **Cindy Bernard's** interest in music and the public commons has spurred two projects in addition to *The Inquisitive Musician*: SASSAS (The Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound)—an organization for experimental music; and a series of photographs of municipal band shells, viewing them as an architecture of public exchange.

Alexander Gray is a partner in Gray Kapernekas Gallery, a New York Chelsea gallery established in 2005. The gallery represents a select group of visual artists, with a focus on mid-career figures who became known in the 1980s and 1990s. Reflecting Gray's interests in the intersection of artistic practice and social change, the gallery is defined by an artist-centric perspective that platforms artists whose work responds to the complexities of contemporary culture and society.

David Hatcher is an artist whose diverse projects often depart from interpretations of historical source documents associated with Western aesthetic traditions.

Shelley Hirsch is "an unorthodox, extraordinary fusion of vocalist, composer, and performance artist" (Anne LeBaron) whose work encompasses story telling pieces, staged performances, compositions, improvisations, collaborations, installations, and radioplays.

D. Mark Kingsley is a partner in the New York graphic design firm Greenberg Kingsley. He has designed album packages for the likes of John Coltrane, Ravi Coltrane, Jewel, Pat Metheny, 10,000 Maniacs and King Sunny Ade as well as ads and brochures for Central Park SummerStage and products for the Guggenheim Museum.

A native of Korea, **Okkyung Lee** has been developing her own voice in contemporary cello performance and improvisation. Using her classical training as a springboard, she incorporates jazz, sounds, Korean traditional music, and noise with extended techniques.

A New York based musician and writer, **Alan Licht** has released four albums of pieces for solo and multiple guitars, the latest being *A New York Minute* (XI). He's recorded and performed as an improviser with many key figures. He is a frequent contributor to the WIRE, Modern Painters, Time Out NY, Premiere and Film Comment. His first book, *An Emotional Memoir of Martha Quinn*, was published by Drag City Press in 2001.

Kenta Nagai is a composer based in New York City. He plays fretless guitar and electronics. His work strives to manipulate the relationship between time and spatial sensitivity. His technique extends and enhances the expressive range of guitar. In addition to solo performance, Nagai also works with many dancers, actors, visual artists, poets and other musicians in multi-media projects.

Singer, lyricist, painter, performer and video artist **Guy Richards Smit** is known for creating the alter-egos John Grosmaierman, or "Big Painting Guy" and Maxi Geill, leader of the rock band PlayColt.

Michael Smith has exhibited and performed extensively around the US, Canada and Europe in a variety of venues from museums and galleries to nightclubs and television.

Tracy Williams is the owner of Tracy Williams LTD, a gallery located in the West Village. A one time soloist with the Wellesley Widows, she is also the former director of Zwirner and Wirth, was head of Contemporary Art at Christie's, New York and a S.V.P. of Contemporary Art at Sotheby's, New York.

Playing bagpipes since the mid 1980s, **David Watson** has set out to take this typecast instrument from CBGB's to Lincoln Center. Upcoming releases are *Throat* with Shelley Hirsch and Makigami Koichi (on Ecstatic Peace), and *Fingering an idea* (on XI).