



ETHEL Biography

(As of September 20, 2006)

ETHEL is four world-class musicians who have come together to create a hot new sound. Bluesy, hard swinging, playful, and fueled by fiery passion, ETHEL defies categorization. This musically omnivorous string band from New York City has been described as "the fiercest string quartet this side of hell," and "the most bad-ass quartet around". John Walters of the Guardian (UK) says "...I wish there were more rock bands who played like ETHEL." ETHEL's irreverence and panache inspires raves from every corner and one thing is certain: ETHEL will keep you riveted to the edge of your seat.

In its seven seasons together, ETHEL has created its own rich playing style -- a fusion of blues, rock, classical, jazz, and experimental genres -- that has developed from each member's unique experience in the music world. Members of the group have collaborated with some of today's most compelling artists, including Sheryl Crow, Gorillaz, Roger Daltrey, Yo-Yo Ma, Ornette Coleman, and Lenny Kravitz. ETHEL is a favorite at countless festivals and venues around the globe, as well as a ubiquitous presence on the New York music scene. Totally unpretentious and committed to reaching audiences of all stripes, the band continues to receive critical acclaim from major publications including The New York Times, The LA Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and Strings Magazine.

"They are contemporary musicians who through their music portray the sounds they have grown up with and live with in the here and now. They play the blues, they can sound like a great '60s rock group, they evoke Motown -- and they can turn on a dime to display virtuosity that any great classical ensemble would envy. The fact that they are a string quartet is almost secondary." - Jeffrey Rossman, Classical Voice of North Carolina

In the spring and summer of 2005, ETHEL performed over 50 shows across the US and Europe with pop and rock legends Joe Jackson and Todd Rundgren. This tour set the stage for ETHEL's second Cantaloupe Music CD, *LIGHT*, due for release in September of 2006. *LIGHT* features audience favorites from recent seasons and from the 2005 tour, as well as new works by all four members of the band and by noted composers Don Byron, Mary Ellen Childs, Pamela Z and Marcelo Zarvos.

"ETHEL left most of the crowd wondering what they'd just witnessed. These talented non-conformists took the string quartet sound and turned it on its head playing soaring, powerfully bluesy arrangements that left most observers slightly baffled but begging for more." - Ken Oxley, The Newcastle Sunday Sun (UK)

In the summer of 2006, ETHEL returns to Arizona for the group's second year in residence at the Grand Canyon Music Festival. In partnership with the Native American Composer Apprentice Program (NACAP) and the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, ETHEL will be working with young composers from the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, culminating in a featured performance of the students' works at the Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon. ETHEL will also be in residence this year at the super-hip New York venue, Joe's Pub, where the group will be performing their own music and collaborating with several innovative musicians and bands, including Jill Sobule, gutbucket, and Kevin Gallagher's *Electric Kompany*. In addition, ETHEL will curate an evening at New York's Symphony Space where they will be spotlighting their supporting organization, Ethel's Foundation for the Arts, and its ongoing efforts to commission new music and cultivate educational projects. Other season highlights include the fan-favorite "In The House of Ethel" at the World Financial Center's Winter Garden (NYC), performances with gutbucket in Austria and the band's first concert appearances in Australia, at the Melbourne Festival.

ETHEL gratefully acknowledge their supporters: American Music Center's Aaron Copland Fund for Music Performing Ensembles Program, the Amphion Foundation, Arts International DNA, Arts International Fund for U.S. Artists, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Chamber Music America, the Greenwall Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Meet the Composer Commissioning Music/USA, Meet the Composer JPMorganChase Regrant Program for Small Ensembles, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Music Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and The September 11th Fund.



Photo by Steve J Sherman (from left: Dorothy Lawson, Mary Rowell, Ralph Farris and Cornelius Dufallo)

ETHEL Members

Cornelius Dufallo (violin) aka “Neil” has been hailed by the NY Times as one of the “new faces of new music.” As a violinist and improviser Neil has received critical acclaim for his performances around the world. Before joining ETHEL Neil was a member of the Flux Quartet, NurseKaya, and the international Sejong Soloists. Currently he is director and resident composer of the ensemble Ne(x)works, Neil holds a doctoral degree from the Juilliard School.

Ralph Farris (viola) is a Grammy-nominated arranger, an original orchestra member of the Broadway company of Disney’s *The Lion King*, and one-time musical director for The Who’s Roger Daltrey. He has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Harry Connick, Jr., Allen Ginsberg, Joseph Silverstein, Five for Fighting, Dishwalla and Gorillaz. A graduate of the Juilliard School’s Accelerated BM/MM program, Ralph is a board member of his alma mater, Walnut Hill. Ralph endorses Glasser carbon fiber bows.

Dorothy Lawson (cello) has toured extensively with Baryshnikov’s White Oak Dance Project, Bang on a Can All-Stars and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. A doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dorothy was a founding member of the Rossetti and Roerich String Quartets. She was recently the solo cello voice for Brazilian jazz pianist and composer Marcelo Zarvos & Group. Dorothy’s Koch label recording of Borodin’s Cello Sonata is a North American premiere.

Mary Rowell (violin) performs regularly as a recitalist and has appeared internationally as electric-violin soloist with the New York City Ballet. A member of the Grammy-award winning Tango Project and a founding member of the alt-rock band the Silos, she has also toured and performed with Sheryl Crow, Joe Jackson, Madonna and Clem Snide, among others. Mary received B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Juilliard School and is currently concertmaster of the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra and the Palm Beach Pops.



ETHEL Composers

ETHEL performs works written by:

Timo Alakotila
Gary Anderson
Don Byron
Mary Ellen Childs
Ty Citerman
Cornelius Dufallo
Richard Einhorn
Ralph Farris
John Halle
Scott Johnson
Jerome Kern
F. S. Key
John King
Phil Kline
Amy Kohn
David Lang
Dorothy Lawson
Lukas Ligeti
John Mackey
Ingram Marshall
Raz Mesinai
Michael Montes
Kevin Norton

Steve Reich
Eric Rockwin
Neil Rolnick
Mary Rowell
Mark Stewart
Jacob ter Veldhuis
Ken Thomson
Ken Valitsky
Bennie Wallace
Julia Wolfe
Randy Woolf
Pamela Z
Marcelo Zarvos
Evan Ziporyn
John Zorn

ETHEL with special guest performers:

David Cossin
Dayna Kurtz
David Lang
Jill Sobule
Evan Ziporyn
gutbucket



Photo by Steve J. Sherman



ETHEL Programs

ETHEL: LIGHT

This program features the music from ETHEL's new CD, *Light*, from Cantaloupe Music. Featuring juicy new tunes and loaded with ETHEL's distinctive blend of fun, spunk and groove, LIGHT includes new music by Timo Alakotila, Don Byron, Mary Ellen Childs, Cornelius Dufallo, Dorothy Lawson, Mary Rowell, Lenny Tristano, Pamela Z and Marcelo Zarvos.

ETHEL'S GREATEST HITS

This is a perfect way to introduce your audience to New York's favorite string band. With ETHEL's rich interpretations, explosive energy and innovative improvisational touch, this is a wide-ranging look at a groundbreaking repertoire that ranges from hushed meditation to fire-fueled jamboree. A program of **ETHEL's Greatest Hits** is crafted specifically for each audience, bringing all the personality and accessibility of the spiritually-caffeinated concert music that ETHEL champions.

IN THE HOUSE OF ETHEL

Option 1: IN THE HOUSE OF ETHEL

...is designed and directed by ETHEL to be performed in non-traditional, open spaces. Part musical installation, part theatrical event, this is a site-specific concert piece that showcases ETHEL's approach to music performance. A 'home' of the familiar four-chair quartet configuration is established and members of ETHEL move throughout the performance space to and from this 'home' area. The audience is encouraged to move freely during the performance allowing room for myriad interpretations and experiences. Incorporating original and improvised music as well as interactions with live-capture and pre-recorded track, **In the House of ETHEL** is never the same show twice.

** Requires 1 day rehearsal and load-in at venue prior to performance day.*

Option 2: SPACE

Commissioned by *The New York State Music Fund*, **Space** is Phil Kline's newest composition for ETHEL, written in collaboration with sound artist Jody Elff. This is a highly adaptable, sonically immersive, electro-acoustic concert event intended for live performance in public spaces. Comprised of structured musical parts integrated with computer-activated chance musical elements, Phil Kline's lush score, sculpted in real time by Jody Elff, allows the members of ETHEL to interact with live sounds and with each other as they move through the performance environment. As much sonic installation as performance event, the sound system is configured in a quadraphonic arrangement allowing distribution of the music throughout the space. The audience is encouraged to move freely and participate in the shifting sonic world that surrounds them.

** Requires 1 day rehearsal and load-in at venue prior to performance day.*

TRUCK STOP

A musical exploration of our common humanity, **Truck Stop** combines ETHEL's trademark informal performance practice with elements of jam session, workshop and artistic retreat. Depending on the depth of the collaboration and the outreach programs desired, ETHEL comes to town for a period of 2 to 5 days and invites local artists to collaborate with them to create one-of-a-kind events that resonate with audiences and their local community. Integral to any **Truck Stop** event are awareness-building activities such as radio appearances and "guerilla-style" short teaser concerts in public spaces to be coordinated with the local presenter.



ETHEL Workshops

Ethel Goes to School

Ethel will create an age-appropriate interactive program for your school and/or youth group, incorporating storytelling, group composition, participation and discussion.

Composer Readings

ETHEL explores the music of young composers in open reading sessions. Issues of notation, style, performance practice, and emotional intent are discussed. Ethel provides their unique perspective as performer/composers, helping students to achieve the musical results they seek.

Ensemble Workshops

ETHEL's focus in these sessions is to provide the tools with which to craft a highly functioning performance ensemble, including keys to effective interpersonal communication and group interaction. From the pencil to the metronome, ETHEL cuts through the challenges of playing together, unveiling the soul of the music in an atmosphere of play and discovery.

Improvisation Workshops

These intimate sessions with students and musicians explore Ethel's own improvisation techniques as they support enhanced musical expression and communication. A feature of this workshop is identifying the *Performer vs. Critic* in each of us, and how this awareness will free an artist to create in any environment. Participants will learn to become at ease with their own spontaneous self-expression.



Photo by Steve J Sherman



ETHEL Discography



LIGHT

[Cantaloupe Music](#) 2006

Loaded with ETHEL's distinctive blend of irreverence and panache, LIGHT features music by Don Byron, Mary Ellen Childs, Pamela Z, Marcelo Zarvos, the Finnish fiddle group JPP, Lennie Tristano and ETHEL.

1. [Arrival from *Nepomuk's Dances*](#) - Marcelo Zarvos
2. [Sambula](#) - Mary Rowell
3. [Lighthouse](#) - Cornelius Dufallo
4. [Chai](#) - Dorothy Lawson
5. [Requiem](#) - Lennie Tristano, arr. Mary Rowell
6. [Pelimanni's Revenge](#) - Timo Alakotila, arr. Ralph Farris
7. [Ethel Dreams of Temporal Disturbances](#) - Pamela Z
8. [Sickness and Death from *Nepomuk's Dances*](#) - Marcelo Zarvos
9. [Memory from *Nepomuk's Dances*](#) - Marcelo Zarvos
10. [After Dust from *Dream House*](#) - Mary Ellen Childs
11. [#3 from *Four Thoughts on Marvin Gaye*](#) - Don Byron
12. [Also Sprach Einstein](#) - Mary Rowell



ETHEL

[Cantaloupe Music](#) 2004

A ground-breaking self-titled debut album from ETHEL featuring works by John King, Phil Kline, Todd Reynolds and Evan Ziporyn. Click below to list to track samples.

John King: Sweet Hardwood 1) [Hardwood](#) 2) [Spiritual](#) 3) [Shuffle](#)
Phil Kline: The Blue Room and Other Stories 4) [River](#) 5) [March](#) 6) [The Blue Room](#) 7) [Tarantella](#)
8) [Todd Reynolds: uh... it all happened so fast](#) 9) [Evan Ziporyn: Be-In](#)

OTHER RECORDINGS FEATURING ETHEL:



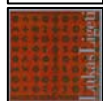
AllSteel by JOHN KING

[Tzadik](#)
2006



SHADOW QUARTET by NEIL ROLNICK

[Innova Records](#)
2005



MYSTERY SYSTEM by LUKAS LIGETI

[Tzadik](#)
2004



BEAUTIFUL YESTERDAY by DAYNA KURTZ

[Kismet Records](#)
2004



THE STRING QUARTETS by JULIA WOLFE

[Cantaloupe Music](#)
2003



POSTCARDS FROM DOWNTOWN by DAYNA KURTZ

[Kismet Records](#)
2003



DAY OF LOVE by MEL GRAVES

[Mutable](#)
2002



THE VISIBILITY OF THOUGHT by MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS

[Mutable](#)
2001



NIGHT AND DAY II by JOE JACKSON

[Sony](#)
2000



SONIC LANGUAGE OF MYTH by STEVE COLEMAN

[BMG International](#)
1999

ETHEL also performs music by Bennie Wallace on [The Indescribable Nth, an award-winning film by Oscar Moore.](#)



PRESS QUOTES

"Ethel... created a world in which classical music had never gown distant, a world in which it was as fresh and direct as crowds dancing in the street."

- ***The Wall Street Journal***

"They own their music, and when they want it to roar, they roar."

- ***The Los Angeles Times***

"Ethel left most of the crowd wondering what they'd just witnessed. These talented non-conformists took the string quartet sound and turned it on its head playing soaring, powerfully bluesy arrangements that left most observers slightly baffled but begging for more."

- ***The Newcastle Sunday Sun***

"[Ethel] had as much power and impact as any four-piece band. From an opener that sounded like Bartok colliding with King Crimson, to fiddle folk, to an extraordinary closing blues -- they pounded the stage with their feet, bowed, plucked and even hit their instruments and -- with strings, hair and even sheet music flying..."

- ***The Bristol Evening Post***

"The potency of an amplified edgy rock band... crank up the intensity, and throw in some improvisation and you'll get New York's most daring string quartet sensation, Ethel."

- ***Strings Magazine***

"Ethel... plays their repertoire vigorously and cultivates a persona closer to (that) of a rock band than of a conventional string quartet."

- ***The New York Times***

"They are contemporary musicians who through their music portray the sounds they have grown up with and live with in the here and now. They play the blues, they can sound like a great '60s rock group, they evoke Motown -- and they can turn on a dime to display virtuosity that any great classical ensemble would envy. The fact that they are a string quartet is almost secondary."

- ***Classical Voice of North Carolina***

"Remember in Charlie Daniels' 'The Devil Went Down to Georgia' how, to be honest, the devil's fiddle sounded a lot cooler than his opponent's? Well, Ethel is that devil."

- ***murphguide.com***

"Extraordinarily skilled, passionate musicians."

- ***The New York Times***

ACCOLADES

"The choice of discriminating avant-gardists everywhere."

- ***Dick Connette, composer***

"Ethel is a dream-come-true. They play with such intensity and joy that it makes me cry. They remind me of why I love music."

- ***Julia Wolfe, composer***



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