

SOMETHING SIMILAR



PERFORMANCE

MANUELLA BLACKBURN

Sounds in the dark, surrounded by loudspeakers.

NOVEMBER 22 8PM

A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT



PERFORMANCE

SMALL NARRATION

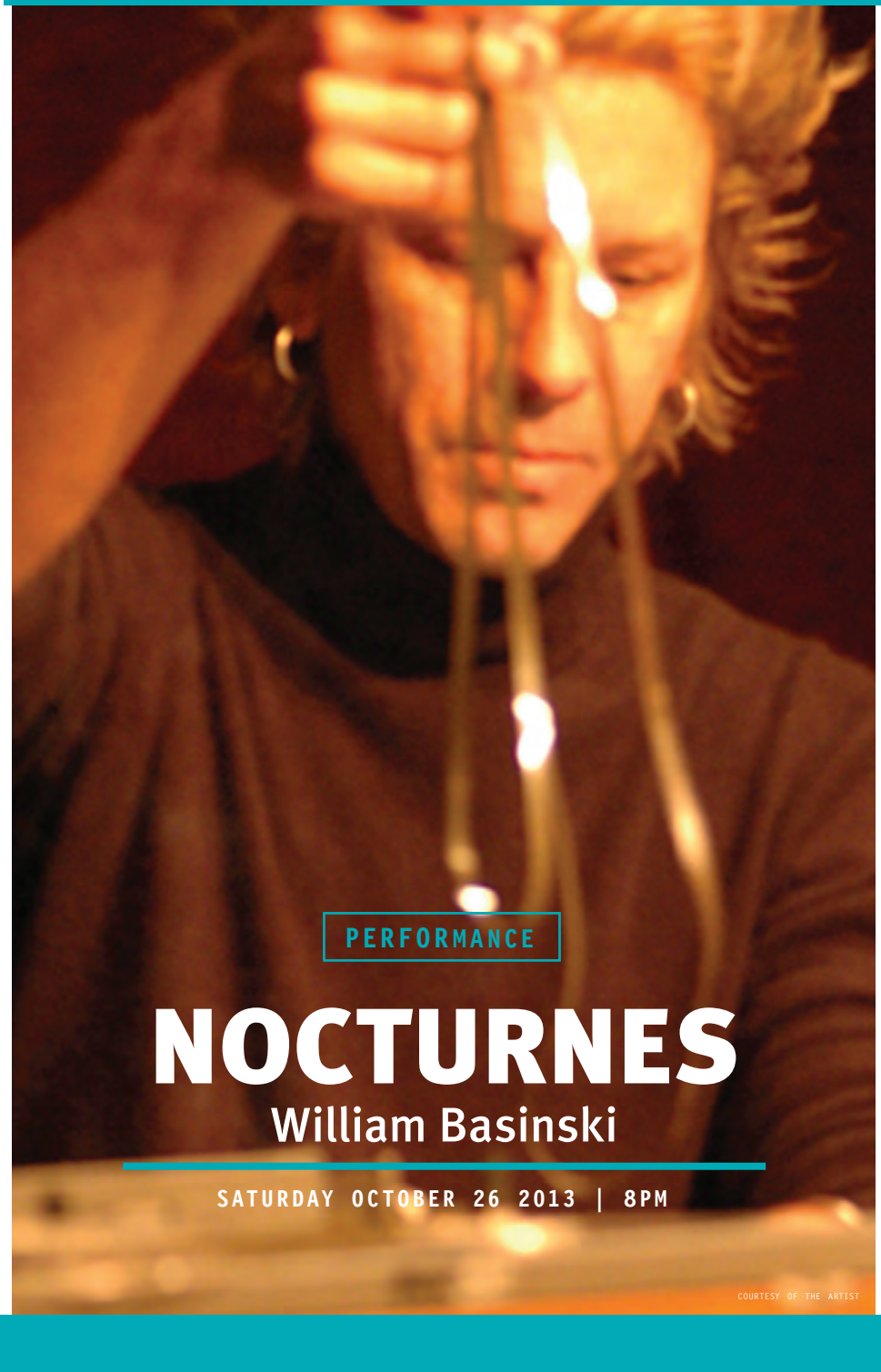
Wojtek Ziemilski

A lecture-performance that uses contemporary choreography, historical documents, and intimate storytelling to explore issues of identity and memory.

NOVEMBER 16 7PM

EMPAC

 Rensselaer



PERFORMANCE

NOCTURNES

William Basinski

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 2013 | 8PM

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PERFORMANCE

NOCTURNES

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If you're not already familiar with the music of William Basinski, please allow me to make a suggestion. If there is something in your mind clamoring for attention or irritating your thoughts, then try to let it go and just forget for a little while. There isn't room in what Basinski does for impatience and anxiety. If writing a paper before class tomorrow or picking the kids up from the babysitter is occupying your mind, then something extraordinary will sneak right past you.

The music of William Basinski is really *about* time. While almost all music happens *in time* (tick tock), this music seems to take the passage of time and use it as a collaborator, a conspirator, and an adversary. Most of Basinski's current practice has origins in the 1970s and 1980s, when he recorded (to magnetic tape) countless hours of material. Eventually, the tapes made their way to storage, where they sat untouched for nearly three decades. Thirty years will do strange things to tape—it will make it unpredictable, crumbling, fragile. Some would say it gets destroyed or unusable. Or, like a fine wine, its temperament will evolve and mellow. But time will change it into something else.

Resurrecting these artifacts, Basinski combed through them, appreciating them for the mutations and developed characters, and pulled them apart as the starting point for new work. *Nocturnes*, originally piano material recorded around 1979, revisits the sound of the piano, and then stretches it out and builds it back together. The piano, one of the most recognizable foundations of music, is suddenly unstable, fragile, skeletal. In some cases, Basinski has removed the attacks of the instrument, which makes an already trembling sound even more unrecognizable. It is at once unsettling, hallucinogenic, and beautiful. That tension creates an uncommon experience—one that draws upon a remembered reality, but constructs something that never could have existed in actuality.

So take a breath and release the rush of the world. Now, Basinski will make time both creep past and slip away.



BIO

William Basinski is a classically trained musician and composer who has been working in experimental media for over 25 years. His haunting and melancholy soundscapes explore the temporal nature of life, resounding with the reverberations of memory and the mystery of time. His epic four-disc masterwork, *The Disintegration Loops*, received international critical acclaim and was chosen as one of the top 50 albums of 2004 by *Pitchfork Media*. *Artforum* magazine selected *The River*, Basinski's transcendental two-disc shortwave music experiment on Raster-Noton.de, Germany, as one of the top 10 albums of 2003. His concerts, installations, and films made in collaboration with artist-filmmaker James Elaine have been presented internationally, most recently at the Venice Biennale; Happy New Ears Festival, Belgium; Focus: ONE Festival, Poland; Festival Filosofia, Carpi, Italy; and Cité de la Musique, Paris, among others. Basinski's latest albums, *92982* and *Vivian & Ondine*, were released in 2009 on 2062/USA and distributed internationally. *The Wire* magazine selected *92982* as one of the top 50 releases of 2009.





STAFF

Johannes Goebel / Director

Geoff Abbas / Director for Stage Technologies

Eric Ameres / Senior Research Engineer

S. Argeo Ascani / Associate Curator, Music

David Bebb / Senior System Administrator

Peter Bellamy / Senior Systems Programmer

Michael Bello / Video Engineer

Victoria Brooks / Curator, Time-Based Visual Arts

Eric Brucker / Lead Video Engineer

Ash Bulayev / Curator, Dance + Theater

Michele Cassaro / Guest Services Coordinator

John Cook / Box Office Manager

David DeLaRosa / Production Technician

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Ian Hamelin / Project Manager

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