

Press Information March 2009

Cologne publisher *buddy's knife jazzedition*
presents new publication
subway moon by Roy Nathanson

buddy's knife jazzedition presents its third English language publication:
***subway moon* by Roy Nathanson**. Like its predecessors – ***signs along the road* by Henry Grimes** and ***who owns music?* by William Parker** –, this work emanates from one of the most innovative and idiosyncratic musicians of the Downtown NYC avant-garde scene.

Purchase information

Roy Nathanson, *subway moon* (2009): 16.00 EUR / 20.00 USD
Henry Grimes, *signs along the road* (2007): 16.00 EUR / 20.00 USD
William Parker, *who owns music?* (2007): 18.00 EUR / 22.00 USD

From May 2009 on available at:

www.spdbooks.org (USD)
www.amazon.de (EUR)
www.buddysknife.de (EUR)

– or –

Contact *buddy's knife* directly via:
Email – info@buddysknife.de
Telephone – 0221/48 48 242 (Germany)

Roy Nathanson and his first book *subway moon*

Roy Nathanson is an internationally acclaimed jazz composer and saxophonist whose music is inconceivable without his poetry. *subway moon* his first full book of poetry was written on Brooklyn's "Q" train and explores the oddly spiritual and intensely public underground space of the New York City Subway through his own internal lens. His words are sounds that he bends and

stretches, twists and tucks, until they give up their meanings, until they become notes. As Judith Volmer says, "Rails vibrate the street, window glass splinters a lover's reverie, and these poems tune us into a thousand mysterious sounds, with heart and lyrical muscle." Or says Jeff Friedman, "His is an ancient voice crying out in the wilderness, and his wilderness is the subway."

His career began in the mid 70's playing with R&B luminaries like Shirley Alston of the Shirelles, to Charles Earland's band, to The Lounge Lizards, to The Jazz Passengers, which he co-founded with Curtis Fowlkes in 1987. The Passengers have made eight CDs and have done extensive touring over the years. Their most recent project was an original soundtrack (score and dialogue) for the 1954 classic 3-D film "Creature From the Black Lagoon" and "The Rock Concert" an examination of deep time for which Roy received a commission from The University of Wisconsin. He has been the principle composer of the band and has written songs for Elvis Costello, Jeff Buckley, Deborah Harry, Jimmy Scott and many others in that capacity. In recent years, Roy has collaborated with Bill Ware on several film scores including "Raising Victor Vargas". He has released several CDs of duo works with keyboardist Anthony Coleman. Roy's work combining music and text has appeared on "The Next Big Thing" on PRI, his first text/music CD "Sotto Voce" was released in spring 2006 on AUM Fidelity Records. His second CD with Sotto Voce will be released in spring 2009 on Enja Records and was a product of a grant from Chamber Music America. Roy's poems have appeared in Natural Bridge, 5AM and Maggid magazines, he has done a variety of collaborations with Anne Waldman, Gerald Stern and Jeff Friedman. Roy has been a recipient of several Meet the Composer Grants, two NYFA composing fellowships and a Bessie and Joseph Jefferson Award. He teaches improvising and songwriting to young children and received his MFA program in poetry at New England College where he has been a guest faculty. His book *subway moon* is his first book with poetry.

The publisher

buddy's knife jazzedition was founded in Cologne, Germany by the journalist and ethnologist Renate Da Rin in 2006. She edited and published *signs along the road* by Henry Grimes and *who owns music?* by William Parker.

The name

Our company name *buddy's knife* refers to the intersection at which legendary trumpeter Buddy Bolden, the revolutionary spirit who exposed himself to danger, meets the knife he used as a tool to sever bonds with tradition. His risk and proficiency left us with the imprint for an art form that will continue to flourish long after his passing.

Producing books on the subjects of free jazz and improvised music always involves a certain amount of risk, and sometimes we also improvise to a high degree. But first and foremost we see our job as offering the musicians a clearly defined space for their written expression, which corresponds to them and the profound beauty of their music.

The future

The next book of *buddy's knife jazzedition* will be published by the end of 2009: part 1 of *improvisers speak – a collection*. Over 40 musicians of the improvising scene (mainly NY) have contributed their work, for example Jayne Cortez, Charles Gayle, Gunter Hampel, Oliver Lake, Sabir Mateen, Cooper Moore, William Parker, Matana Roberts, Matthew Shipp, Warren Smith, John Tchicai, David S. Ware, Henry P. Warner ... just to name a few.

The new project will be presented after autumn 2009.

Our motto is:

"... craftsmanship is an aspect of morality ..."

(Ralph Ellison)

Keep up the good work!