



Actual/Actual showcases jazz improvisation with an orientation towards thematic music and spontaneous composition at its core. Their wide swath of performative expression taps swing, ballads, freejazz, modal and other musical genres. It's all "grist for the mill" as they create a new context for these elements where improbable connections are made when you least expect them to.

Front man and saxophonist Rent Romus whose performative history started in the late eighties, originally hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and has made it a point to engage and collaborate with musicians throughout the Midwest region. This band represents an important part of his "talent reconnaissance" and is truly a multi-generational affair.

Their first album ***Baptismal*** was released in the summer of 2022. In the spring of 2023 they released an EP ***here for the outside*** recorded live at WYSO radio in Yellow Springs Ohio while on Edgetone Records.

Rent Romus - alto, soprano saxophones

Gerard Cox - piano, Rhodes, Wurlitzer, Korg key bass, percussion

Josh Strange - vibraphone, trumpet

Troy Kunkler- drums

Press Quotes:

"Spectral moments surface throughout as a bit of other-worldliness emerging from brassy cacophony. Rauous, delicately haunting, and most definitely coy, the album has a kind of nonchalant majesty to it."

- Elise Mills, White Crate

"Baptismal is the group's debut and presents a band with high energy, lots of creativity, close interplay, subtlety, and plenty of fire" **- Richard Gilman-Opalsky, Activator Magazine**

"This is free jazz - you might think, well yeah, 70ies style Milt Jackson - but somehow these chaps keep an edge to things. There is a continuous presence of free improvisation lurking around the corner, as well as a more 'rock' style approach to playing..." **- RSW, Vital Weekly**

Listen:

<https://soundcloud.com/rent-romus/actual-actual-2023-compilation>

<https://edgetonerecords.bandcamp.com/album/baptismal>

<https://rentromus.bandcamp.com/album/here-for-the-outside>

Booking:

Gerard Cox gerardcox1@gmail.com

Rent Romus rentromus@gmail.com

About the Members

Rent Romus is a saxophonist/multi-instrumentalist, composer, bandleader, music producer, community activist, and 2023 Emmy award winning performing artist. Since 1988, his work on the saxophone has been dubbed "ferocious" by the San Francisco Weekly and "central to the creative music world of the West Coast" by writer Frank Rubolino. He leads the Lords of Outland a free improvisation unit, the Life's Blood Ensemble a composition based contemporary group, and the Otherworld Ensemble a Finnish/American collective exploring new perspectives in heritage and traditional folk. He has recorded over 50 albums exploring a wide variety of musical settings which have included beat poet founder ruth weiss, and creative music pioneers Chico Freeman, John Tchicai, and Vinny Golia, Teppo Hauta-aho, Heikki Koskinen, Thollem McDonas, Stefan Pasborg, Marcos Fernandez, and Ernesto Diaz-Infante to name a few. He is the founder of Edgetone Records a community driven label with over 30 years of independent music production, and the creator of Outsound Presents, an all-volunteer musician run non-profit music presenting organization based in San Francisco since 2000. In 2019 he brought his Manala suite to Southern and Central Finland combining jazz and Finnish Folk music inspired by the rune poems of the Kalevala. In 2022 he debuted the premier of Itkuja Suite at SF Music Day Festival in San Francisco later releasing the full album with an eleven piece band in 2023. Also in 2023 the Film released in 2019 "ruth weiss: the Beat Goddess" which featured Romus as a performing artist won a Northern California Emmy® Award for Best Cultural and Historical Documentary Feature.

Gerard Cox is an American improvising musician whose primary instruments are piano and electric piano e.g. Wurly and Rhodes. Given to a very percussive and insistent kind of attack, his sound is at home in both very open, improvised situations and in jazz funk or swing jazz bands where an instigating "wild card" is desired. The influence of Thelonious Monk is readily apparent in how he improvises with off-kilter rhythmic phrases and an emphasis on whole tone harmony and minor seconds. The more sweeping and orchestral approaches of Cecil Taylor and McCoy Tyner have also been important touchstones. While Cox has focused on developing his sound on piano, he considers improvisation something less dependent on "expertise" or specialization than on honing one's intuition for what the moment most seems to require. With that understanding he often has other instruments at his employ including all manner of percussion, found sound, trumpet, and melodica. His ideal in fact is performance where people are not planted at their "stations" but where the improvisation involves navigating a room or stage full of possibilities for sound-making. Movement should always be a part of performance and this has both important physical and metaphorical implications.

Josh Strange is a Grammy-nominated Instrumentalist (Nas, Lauryn Hill, G Herbo), vibraphonist, composer and trumpet player based in Cincinnati Ohio. Having attended the University Of Cincinnati Conservatory Of Music, he is an active performer throughout the United States. In 2014 Josh was awarded the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award as a Fairmont senior. In September 2023 Josh will be on a statewide tour with bassist Ben Tiberio.

Troy Kunkler studied music at Ohio University, where he studied classical percussion with Roger Braun and Joseph VanHassel and drum set with Guy Remonko. Troy has played, toured, and recorded with a variety of bands and ensembles on drum set, bass, and vibraphone. Some past projects include: Radarhill, Mosses, and a rock opera written by Columbus composer Nick Weckman about worms taking over the planet entitled "Worms Rise Up". Currently, Troy plays drums with October Ember, The Francis Bacon Band, guitarist Mike Sopko, bass with Marvin The

Robot, Rent Romus and Actual/Actual, and drums and vibraphone as a soloist, bandleader and freelancer. 2018 Midwest tour Radar Hill jazz sextet.