

Tonights' **Solo Vernacular Series** is designed as a **site-specific & political education performance project** to showcase new modes of discourse, innovation and oppositional consciousness in the form of Improvised Music dynamics and vernacular produced by People of Color.

This work communicates **cultural analyses & transformative dynamics of resistance** to dominant ideologies via *technologies* of Oppositional Consciousness: **Semiotic & deconstructive political analyses, shared & emergent identity, differential modes of consciousness & democratic imaginings** as introduced by US Third World feminists.

Like any spoken vernacular (vər'nakyələr), a musical vernacular is the language that musicians use to "speak" their embodied disciplines. The cognitive embodiment of an applied discipline is, in this case, music that's learned and taught and passed-on through the development of personalized 'figures of/in speech' and other research strategies that enable the artist to bend, reshape and transform the instrument they chose.

These program notes, written in our own words, reflect our collective process and the cultural & political platforms of the artists presenting their world-views embedded in their heavy discipline and *solo voice* tonight.

DECOLONIZING THE IMAGINATION: OPPOSITIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Solo Vernacular Series

MARCH 29, 2014
5-8PM

OS QILOMBO
2313 San PABLO AVE
OAKLAND, CA 94612

100% Vegan Cuisine with Afrikan and New Afrikan Inspiration
Healing Kitchen

Healing Kitchen Catering works with a colorful array of flavors, spices, and herbs to heal the body and satisfy your soul. We offer wholesome meals for your special day or any day. “The Healing Kitchen” concept comes out of many ethnic culinary traditions. Kitchens, not hospitals, were centers of wellness and medicine. When love, whole foods, fresh herbs, and the spirit come together- food becomes a part of our healing... our medicine. This year we will be transitioning into a cooperative business model that will focus on popular education and creating jobs. We will continue to offer healthy and high quality meals for social gathering, cultural/ political/ spiritual events, community organizations, and for folks in the community.

SOLOISTS:

ELECTRONICS - SHARMI BASU,
aka BEAST NEST [HTTP://BEASTNEST.BIGCARTEL.COM/](http://beastnest.bigcartel.com/)

“There is a necessity for a material collective response to the systemic structures that seek to oppress us, and through this project we attempt to catalyze a moment of our imminent liberation through performance. **Oppositional Consciousness** offers to make connections within the beauty of our struggle by exemplifying the abstraction of our experiences through sound. The presentation will begin with a short introduction and meditation, and lead into an **intentional listening space** guided by a soundscape constructed by myself. Our intention with this meditation and sound experiment is to exemplify agency within collective action and experience. When we come together for music and performance, when we participate in an active listening, we are demonstrating our abilities as artists and supporters to create autonomous spaces and experiences, however momentary.

Drums - MARSHALL TRAMMELL,
aka SPECIAL UNIVERSE

[HTTP://SPECIALUNIVERSE.WIX.COM/SPECIALUNIVERSE](http://specialuniverse.wix.com/specialuniverse)

At this point in my career, I am consumed with presenting my music that directly “speaks” my world-view. As such, my music is analysis, it’s emotional, therapeutic, shamanistic, structural & historically relevant. tonight’s work is inspired by the Harm Free Zone community autonomy & accountability process developed by NYC anarchists of Color in the struggle to abolish the prison industrial complex, and to transform our ways of treating each other, and is inseparable from the process of community building.

This evening I will present two compositions: “A Political History of the Drum(kit)” and “The Three Princes: Portraits of Eritrean Brothers in Oakland.”

ELECTRONICS - ZACHARY JAMES WATKINS

[HTTP://ZACHARYJAMESWATKINS.COM/](http://zacharyjameswatkins.com/)

“One of my objectives as an artist is to expose **natural phenomena**. I am interested in the physical aspects of sound and have developed a sensibility that focuses heavily on **Resonance**, which bridges the physical and spiritual. **Vibration** is at the core of my experience of Resonance. I am moved by natural resonances that exist around us all. My own work strives to develop and nurture Resonances by negotiating sensitive relationships among a number of what I identify as critical ingredients for psychedelic phenomena: *resonant bodies exciting harmonic energy creating diverse waves, beating and phase patterns diffused spatially with full dynamic range and a deep attention to the body and how it engages with the environment.*”

