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BOBBY AVEY SOLO AT THE DEER HEAD INN: FRACTAL RHYTHMS AND A PRIMAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF PIANO

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October 3, 2010

Bobby Avey (26), composer and pianist who has been called the “next rising superstar of jazz,” presented his first solo performance at Delaware Water Gap’s Deer Head Inn on Sunday evening.



Bobby Avey at the piano.

Stepping in as last minute substitute for

John Coates Jr., Avey performed original compositions as well as satisfying a Coates-hungry audience with favorites including “Epilogue 99” and an iconic version of “Freak of The Week.” Deer Head regulars, connoisseurs of the Coates’ catalogue, enthusiastically received Avey’s interpretations as innovative, intelligent, and inspired.

Avey’s original works border on philosophy: intellectually demanding, questioning, and emotionally turbulent. *A New Face*, the title track of his recently released CD (recorded with saxophonist Dave Liebman), was filled with ecstatic, orgiastic tonalities and fractal rhythms. Like harmonic shards of glass shimmering in an abyss of oceanic undulations, *A New Face* finds Avey introducing a *new language of music*.

The primal and polytonal archaeology of “Late November” synthesizes the origins and ends of existence. Like a primordial supercomputer, Avey’s deconstructed composition is reminiscent of Monk and Davis, Stravinsky and Messiaen. The very life of his music is rhizomal and schizoid –an event of unconcealing of the *yet-to-come* and the *that-which-has-been*. Avey’s composition is a rhythmic and harmonic wilderness that serves as its own opening into a clearing for music his fingers have yet to reveal.

“Time Unfolding” is a wildly composed flight into meteoric binary code and melodic Brownian motion. The complex movements of time and space gives one the sense of what it must be like inside the atom. Avey shows us that the unfamiliar and the unknown need not be threatening, while *challenging the very ideology of jazz*.

Matthew Tyler Giobbi, Ph.D., is a critical theorist and the author of *A Postcognitive Negation: The Sadomasochistic Dialectic of American Psychology*. He is the Erich Fromm Postdoctoral Research Associate at the European Graduate School, Switzerland.

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