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## Flutronix and Meeranai Shim Concert Reviews

Apr 1, 2014 by [The Flute View](#)



Flute and electronics are alive and well in New York City, as Flutronix and Meeranai Shim showed me this month! Since I am spending more time in New York recently, I make sure to go out and support my fellow flutists whenever I can (this is something we all need to do more of as a flute community). Luckily, there have been some great flute concerts lately from both New York-based flutists and flutists here on tour.

Brooklyn-based Flutronix, whose sophomore album 2.0 comes out this month, was playing a show at Lower East Side venue Pianos, traditionally a venue for bands and singers, but not usually for a flute concert. However, with Flutronix' "urban art-pop" feel, they fit right in at the venue, and everyone in the audience agreed as they grooved to Nathalie Joachim and Allison Loggins-Hull's smooth flute lines over intricate electronics and thumping beats provided by Joe Blaxx on the drums.

Their instrumentation is 2 flutes (sometimes with additional voices), live drum set, and electronic tracks. Flutronix, founded in 2010 when the 2 flutists met on MySpace, writes all their own music, which has a distinct sound of both minimalist and hip-hop elements combined with virtuosic and expressive flute playing. Did I mention everything is always memorized?! (seriously, I've seen them play multiple times and not one memory slip) There is a remarkable chemistry and camaraderie between Joachim and Loggins-Hull, something that is rare to see among classical musicians these days.

Performing selections from their new album as well as covers (my favorite was their take on Rihanna's "Diamonds," with Joachim singing better than Rihanna herself), their set had something for everyone: a thought-provoking message in "Typewriter," technical flutey flair in "Life Lines," and even a love song. The combination of electronics, flute, and most recently, Joachim's and Loggins-Hull's voices, was fresh, fun, and always entertaining, presented in a way that can cross any genre and appeal to listeners of everything from hip-hop to electronic to classical music.

Flutronix is bending the rules and paving the way for flutists of this generation and the future, and I'm excited to see everything they have in store! Their new album, 2.0, is available on [www.flutronix.com](http://www.flutronix.com).

After the New York Flute Fair, I read Meeranai Shim's tweet that she was playing at Spectrum, a popular new music venue also on NYC's Lower East Side. As much as I wanted to attend the New York Flute Club's Gala concert, there are only so many times I can watch someone playing a PVC contrabass flute, so I chose to go to Meeranai's show, and I was happy I did.

Her flute and percussion duo, AB Duo, consisting of Shim and percussionist Christopher Jones are both based in San Francisco (Shim) and Rochester, NY (Jones). They have been touring and commissioning works specifically written for their unique instrumentation since 2012.

The first piece performed was entitled "Sol Moon Rocker" by composer Zack Browning, and it contained both

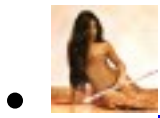
interpolations of popular rock songs as well as some fun flute and piccolo playing. Next was Carolyn O'Brien's piece "Nocturne," which was by far my favorite, as it was written for the strange combination of contrabass flute and djembe. I was unsure of what contrabass flute and djembe would sound like, but Shim and Jones' unique instruments complimented each other quite well. The high ranges of the contrabass flute and the djembe's overtones created a multi-layered soundscape of awesomeness.

Jones then played a solo piece for vibraphone and electronics entitled "Long Distance" by Steven Snowden, where Jones sampled various phone sounds on pedals as he played. The next piece, "Isla," by Ian Dicke, continued using electronics, but this time they were interactive and reacted to Shim's and Jones' playing. The vibraphone sounded different electronic sounds as Jones sometimes played it with a bow, and Shim's flute playing also triggered some space-age sounding effects.

For more on the AB Duo, visit [www.abduo.net](http://www.abduo.net).

–Fluterscooter

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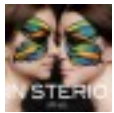
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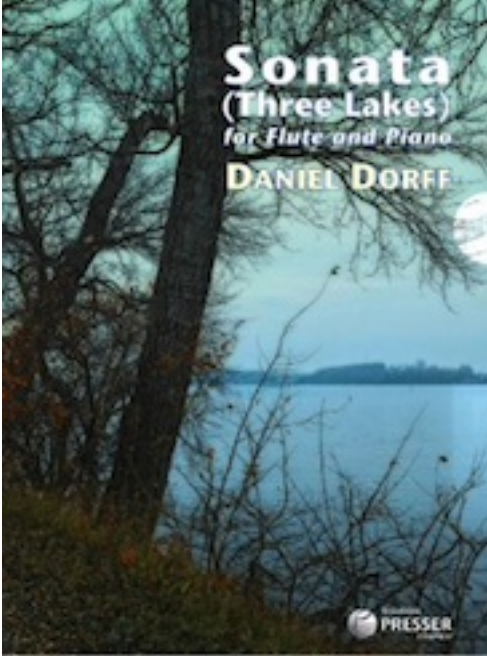
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