

Born in Allegan, Michigan, **C.R. Kasprzyk** (cory kasp-shick) is a versatile musician embracing all periods of music while committing to the support and development of today's classical music and the saxophone's use in multiple genres. As a composer and performer, Kasprzyk's music can be heard throughout the United States in venues ranging from bookstores to Carnegie Hall.

Kasprzyk's music has been described as "...full of wind, height, and velocity" (Baltimore City Paper) drawing an intangible parallel between a cognizance of one's surroundings and music transcribed from (or inspired by) this environment. Of particular interest is human impact on the planet, having initiated many (musical and non-musical) events to further actuate these ideas. From the harmonic analysis of an elevator to the rhythmic examination of a crowd of people's speech, many excursions lead to a musical depiction of traveling through one's environment, drawn from the context of how we interact therein. Volatile at times, the music also finds inspiration in an eclectic fusion of free improvisation, off-kilter pop/rock, and the evolution of western classical music, exploring the dichotomy of mixing strict notation with improvisation or other loosely based notational systems. He often delves into the acoustics of sound as well as the visual elements and pure physicality required of (traditional and non-) instruments, in effort to form one vivid entity.

In 2003, Kasprzyk was the only undergraduate recipient of the Midwest Graduate Music Consortium Composition Contest. Since then his music has been presented at multiple venues and festivals throughout the country including Lincoln Center, the Spark Festival, MusicX', Electronic Music Midwest, 60x60 Project, Red Room, West Point Military Academy, Bowerbird, and Saint Peter's Church Classical Concert Series, as well as many universities and conservatories throughout the country. Further commissions and performances include the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, the Intrada Winds, Grand Valley State University, The Old Vienna Comedy Project, Wiggle Pictures/The Ghetto Film School, and a wealth of saxophonists including Jennifer Grantham and James McCain.

A featured artist at the opening ceremony of Peabody's Music for the World, Kasprzyk has also served as saxophonist with the Grand Valley and New World Symphony Orchestras (under Michael Tilson Thomas), as well as guest artist with many ensembles including the Towson New Music Ensemble. In 2006 he was an invited soloist on the CCRMA Concert Series (Stanford University). Finding a medium to combine his abilities as composer and performer, Kasprzyk is active in the world of free improvisation, having performed at The Red Room, Load of Fun Gallery, the High Jinx Festival, and recorded with members of the 2005 High Zero Festival.

Kasprzyk has received informal private study from Kaija Saariaho and Tristan Murail, among many other prominent figures. He holds a bachelors degree in saxophone performance from Grand Valley State University where he studied saxophone with Laurie Sears and Arthur Campbell, as well as composition with Kurt Ellenberger. Kasprzyk also obtained two masters degrees in two years from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied under the tutelage of Gary Louie and Christopher Theofanidis.

From 2005 to 2007 he served as the saxophone professor at Morgan State University. He was also on faculty at The Maryland Conservatory and served as a site coordinator for The Creative Access. Kasprzyk currently serves on faculty at Bluefield College and is a contributing writer for the New River Voice.
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