

Eagles cling to role of 'underdog'

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Bowerbird at historic homes

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# Philadelphia experiment

## Experimental music shows to be held in historic homes

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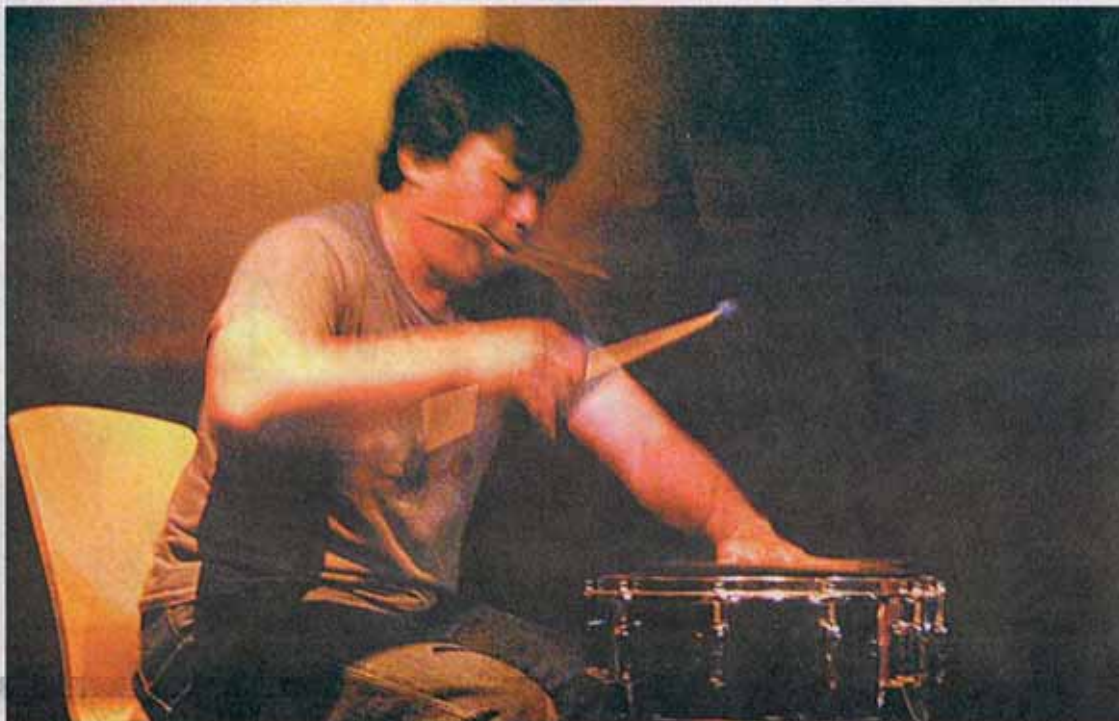


**PREVIEW.** Experimental music is nearly synonymous with dank basements, makeshift venues and tiny gallery spaces. But all that is changing now that Bowerbird, the Philadelphia concert-presenting organization responsible for much of the recent uptick in new music around the city, has partnered with the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks to hold shows within the confines of area historic homes.

**BOWERBIRD'S** Dustin Hurt says that the pairing was "serendipity. I was looking for a programming partner, they were looking for a partner. They wanted music programming, I wanted a new space."

Robert Wuille, curator of contemporary projects for PSPL, adds that the recently inaugurated initiative "Landmarks Contemporary Projects is" trying to develop a full range of cultural offerings that expand the traditional ways our museums were being used. Bowerbird's philosophy is very much in line with the experimental and intelligent type of programming we're looking for."

**THE SERIES** kicked off last month with a concert in



Tonight, percussionist Toshi Makihara performs at the historic Physick House as part of the Bowerbird at Landmarks music series.

Society Hill's Samuel Powel House, when, Hurt explains, "we learned, the hard way, that 18th-century homes don't have three-prong outlets and do have squeaky floors." Tonight, the 19th-century home of the "father of American surgery," Philip Syng Physick, will host the debut of a scintillating trio featuring Japanese-born and PA-resident percussionists Toshi Maki-

hara and Tatsuya Nakatani with saxophonist Bryan Eubanks; the trombone/cello duo In Freundschaft; and a solo electronics set by Michael Barker. Next week, Bowerbird returns to the Powel House with solo sets by trombonist Dan Blacksberg and electronic musician Dave Smolen (unveiling a new CD), and a quartet featuring Hurt on trumpet, percussionist

Paul Neidhart, saxophonist Jack Wright and guitarist Alban Bailly.

**THOUGH THE** music Bowerbird presents may seem out of place in a Rococo ballroom, Wuille points out that it fits right in with tradition. "It can be challenging, but audiences in Philadelphia are hungry for innovative art and music. In the 18th century, places like the Powel

House hosted intimate recitals of the 'newest' music of the day. In a sense, this is a revival of a very old tradition, albeit with an experimental edge."

**Bowerbird @ Landmarks**

Friday, 8 p.m.

Physick House, 321 S. 4th St.

Jan. 12, 8 p.m.

Powel House, 244 S. 3rd St.

\$5

www.bowerbird.org

# We've got big ballrooms

Bowerbird presents their favorite  
experimental bands in historic homes  
throughout Philadelphia

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