

STREET DATE : September 15, 2009

## Jody Redhage & Fire In July

## ANCIENT STAR

*Ancient Star* is the debut recording from cellist, composer, and vocalist Jody Redhage and her ensemble Fire In July. Featuring art songs by Ms. Redhage, and some of the most versatile and talented improvisers in New York, Fire In July melds the detail and finesse of chamber music with the energy and drive of pop, rock, and jazz improvisation. The sensitivity of this project requires very special multi-skilled personnel and Redhage has found her perfect collaborators. With Ken Thomson on clarinet and bass clarinet, Alan Ferber on trombones, Tim Collins on vibraphone, Dan Tepfer on piano, and Fred Kennedy on drums, Redhage has truly compiled a distinguished ensemble of players.

Fire in July's debut album reflects the current 21st century trend of straddling genres. With influences ranging from Medieval Chanson to Kurt Weill, Redhage creates a captivating blend that simply comes across as her own unique voice.

Jody's passion is setting modern American poetry into 21st century art song, and *Ancient Star* reflects this passion -- including settings of several poems by William Carlos Williams along side original texts by Redhage and her sister Jill.

musicians      **Jody Redhage**, cello and voice      **Ken Thomson**, clarinet and bass clarinet      **Alan Ferber**, trombone  
**Tim Collins**, vibraphone      **Dan Tepfer**, piano      **Fred Kennedy**, drums      **Ben Wittman**, percussion  
**Stephan Crump**, bass      **Marc Shulman**, guitar      **Ralph Alessi**, trumpet

1. Sometimes There's God So Quickly (6:12) (Jody Redhage)
2. Rum Point (5:13) (Jody Redhage)
3. Ancient Star (9:34) (William Carlos Williams)
4. As the Cat (1:44) (William Carlos Williams)
5. Dawning of Day (5:35) (Jill Redhage)
6. This November (6:34) (Jill Redhage)
7. This is Just to Say (1:20) (William Carlos Williams)
8. Sister, My Sister (4:33) (Jody Redhage)
9. Calming (2:20)
10. The Botticellian Trees (5:21) (William Carlos Williams)
11. Elevation (2:16)
12. I Wonder Why (5:16)
13. Zip (1:37)
14. Greenport Slide (6:17) (Jody Redhage)

Recommended tracks:

For jazz: (2) Rum Point, (12) I Wonder Why

For Triple A: (5) Dawning of Day, (14) Greenport Slide, (8) Sister, My Sister

For Classical: (6) This November, (10) The Botticellian Trees, (9) Calming



All compositions and arrangements by Jody Redhage (Scarlet Tree Music publishing)      Produced by Ben Wittman.

Recorded February 6-8, 2009 by Ben Wittman and Manfred Knoop at Knoop Studios, River Edge, NJ. Additional recording by Ben Wittman at Wittman Productions, Brooklyn, NY. Mixed by Ben Wittman. Mastered by A.T. Michael MacDonald at AlgoRhythms Mastering Studio, Brooklyn, NY.  
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Cellist, vocalist, and composer Jody Redhage has made her mark as one of the most adventurous exponents of her field. Over the past seven years, Redhage has developed the ability to sing and play rhythmically complex and opposing musical lines. Her most recent project, composing for the sextet *Fire In July*, is also her current source of creative inspiration and its unusual instrumentation includes a member of each instrument family: voice, cello, clarinet/bass clarinet, trombone, piano, vibraphone, and drums. As recipient of the 2005 Hertz Fellowship Grant, Redhage commissioned and recorded a CD of repertoire for her voice, cello, and electronics, “All Summer in a Day” (2007 New Amsterdam Records). As a professional cellist, Redhage’s passions for chamber music and new music have led her to participate in an array of cutting-edge projects. Praised for her “exceptional technical command” (*Night After Night*), Jody graduated with her master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music and now resides in Brooklyn, NY. Her wide variety of musical interests have led her to work with composers including George Crumb, David Lang, Steve Reich, and Terry Riley, and to performances with members of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the Flux Quartet, Neil Diamond, Jay-Z, Beyonce, the Roots, Enya, Duncan Sheik, Guster, and Sufjan Stevens. Jody has appeared on “Conan O’Brien,” “The View,” “The Early Show,” and “The Today Show,” and her own compositions and music from her CD have been aired on NPR stations WNYC, WFMU, and WAMC.

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#### Other Information

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- 1 Jody began composing at age 19 and studied composition at the University of California Berkeley with Jorge Liderman, John Thow, and Edwin Dugger. In New York, Jody continued her composition studies with Bang on a Can founder Julia Wolfe.
- 2 Redhage’s compositions have been performed by the New Music Collective in Charleston, SC, and across the country in such venues as the University of California Berkeley, Northwestern University, Meredith College (Raleigh, NC), the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Tenri Cultural Institute, Old First Concert Series (San Francisco), Dangerous Curve Gallery in Los Angeles, the Berkshire Fringe Festival, Composer’s Voice Concert Series (Manhattan), and Serial Underground (Manhattan).
- 3 Recent Press: “Wow, wow, wow! Give this woman a cello and stand back!” (*Cello City Ink*). “Adventurous cello songstress Jody Redhage” (*Time Out NY*) is “a new music dynamo...Redhage is cultivating a growing repertoire of indie art song that breaches genre boundaries and makes for stirring listening” (*Musicworks magazine*).
- 4 Redhage discusses her decision to self-release: “In an increasingly complex world of new technology and with the essential breakdown of the recording industry as we’ve known it over the past 50 years, for the creative artist, self-releasing one’s records, at least until one may hopefully be “discovered” by one of the last stronghold labels, seems to be the most effective and artist-friendly option for distributing one’s recorded music.”

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Physical distribution through [www.jodyredhage.com](http://www.jodyredhage.com)

Digital distribution through iTunes

Direct sales from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) | [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com)

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