

UNCOOL – ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

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ANDREA WOLPER voice, composition

KEN FILIANO double bass, composition

Ken Filiano (double bass, composition) and Andrea Wolper (voice, composition) joyfully employ the various elements of American jazz traditions, spontaneous composition, written music, and poetry and spoken word. Using both conventional and unconventional approaches to their respective instruments, their music moves along an expansive continuum; if both are known primarily as jazz artists, it can be said they dwell on many branches of the jazz tree. Embracing the concept of "no more walls," their focus is always toward receiving inspiration, whatever its origins, and using it to bring the musical moment to life.

Andrea and Ken started working together in 1998. When they met on the bandstand, there was an instant musical connection. With time, their musical partnership grew, eventually expanding into the personal, and the couple were married in 2003. Living in Brooklyn, New York, both work as leaders of their own groups, as well as collaborating with artists in multiple musical genres.

Through the years, Ken has been an in-demand bassist for projects in jazz, tango, poetry, and in experimental, improvised, and classical music. He leads two quartets, Quantum Entanglements and Baudolino's Dilemma, and is co-leader of several groups including the Steve Adams/Ken Filiano Duo, Lerner-Grassi-Filiano, and Double Duo (Jay Clayton, Ken Filiano). His extensive discography includes a solo bass CD, "subvenire" (NineWinds), and his Quartet's "Dreams From a Clown Car" (Clean Feed). For these and numerous other recordings and performances, critics have called Ken a "creative virtuoso," a "master of technique" . . . "a paradigm of that type of artist...who can play anything in any context and make it work, simply because he puts the music first and leaves peripheral considerations behind."

Described as "an audacious artist [who] flouts genre limitations" Andrea Wolper "brings songs to life, whatever their source, working in a milieu that begins with jazz and reaching out to embrace an expressive area that is uniquely her own." Andrea traverses the jazz continuum, from straight ahead to free jazz. She holds the vocal chair in a traditional big band; was part of the free improvisation trio, *TranceFormation* (Connie Crothers, Ken Filiano, Andrea Wolper); and has performed in numerous projects of innovators Jay Clayton, William Parker, and others. As the leader of her own projects, she blends her often-uncategorizable songs and compositions with poetry and spoken word, and reinventions of songs drawn from pop, jazz, musical theatre, and other genres.

Andrea and Ken are grateful for the opportunity to spend time in Poschiavo as Uncool Artists-in-Residence, and are excited to discover what impact the village, the mountains, the people will have on the continued development and documentation of their work, both individually and collectively.

Text: Ken Filiano / Andrea Wolper