

Contact: Chuck van Zyl
Telephone: (610) 734-1009
Email: info@thegatherings.org
Website: www.thegatherings.org

Innovative synthesist Ombient (Mike Hunter) returns to the remarkable setting of St. Mary's Hamilton Village and The Gatherings Concert Series on Saturday 20 May 2017. Noted Electronic Musician Geoffrey Waterman is scheduled to provide an opening set.

Mike Hunter is possessed by a unique atmospheric sensitivity. Making music as Ombient he explores the sonic territory of Spacemusic's 1970s Berlin-School. Utilizing a number of classic electronic instruments, among them a substantial four cabinet "Synthesizers Dot Com" modular system, he further explores the textures and moods of immortal albums such as "Departure From the Northern Wasteland" and "Ricochet".

As keyboard leads unwind over stumbling and tumbling ratcheting sequencer patterns, heavenly chords hold and confirm Hunter's interstellar message. While droning electronics provide foundational texture, glittering effects open up space above. One sonic image blends into the next, as expectations rise, and are met. For a work inspired by such a cerebral medium, Ombient's music feels full of passionate intensity. In the qualities of simplicity, directness and raw energy, he has discovered a machine-age outlet for the imagination - the most powerful force for human freedom.

Through an impressive collection of vintage and modern synthesizers and keyboards, electricity is transformed into sound, and we are lifted into infinite spaces. Beckoning toward the eternal, reverberant Mellotron flutes and strings light out in expressive fanciful flights. In a brace of free improvisation Ombient flaunts angelic harmonies, just as easily as he mines subterranean frequencies - out of which emerge motoric sequencer patterns. These echoing interlocking runs of notes expand, contract and breakdown in ever heightening circles. The mounting compositional tension, released in our minds as impressionistic cerebration, feels energizing. Minor key chords slowly sweep across the sound field. In an ascending rush, then a descending calm, we depart our more common thoughts... for mysterious regions. At journey's end the music resolves, and settles the listener into a drifting dream of gently humming circuits and charged solid states.

Geoffrey Waterman plays with an ear for color, motion and texture, forsaking conventional narrative clarity. It is an experience by way of the senses, rather than through pure mental interpretation. Our focus expands beyond sound, to the sources of that sound, to its imminent fragility, and a state of unbeing. It may be difficult to lose ourselves in Waterman's work, as its negative space is constantly asking us to make sense of it. One moment triggers the next so seamlessly that eventually chaos is re-engineered into the illusion of a natural order. Throughout these realizations, tones flicker lightly across the surface, or burrow deep into it - come into focus, or all but disappear. The gentle descent into incandescent timbres and rambling, fearsome energy has the ability to stir the imagination. Throbbing with texture, then snapping into focus, lessons on loudness, denseness and sonority, enmesh the listener in aural events that are impossible to live aloud.

The Gatherings Concert Series presents Ombient plus Geoffrey Waterman live in concert on Saturday 20 May 2017 at 8:00PM (doors open at 7:30pm) in the church sanctuary of St. Mary's Hamilton Village 3916 Locust Walk (just east of 40th & Locust) on the Penn campus in West Philadelphia. Free Admission. No reservation necessary. Donations Gratefully Accepted!

Marking its 25th anniversary in 2017, The Gatherings Concert Series is presented by the all-volunteer staff of The Corporation for Innovative Music and Arts of PA, an IRS recognized 501(c)3 charity.

For more information, please access: www.thegatherings.org