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Sonic Innovator **Saul Stokes** returns to the remarkable setting of St. Mary's Hamilton Village and The Gatherings Concert Series on Saturday 17 November 2018. Local modular synthesizer performer Chaka Benson will provide an opening set.

Performing with custom designed, hand-built synthesizers alongside retro-synths and modern sampling technology, Saul Stokes creates sonic landscapes somewhere between the floating textures of Vintage Spacemusic and the focused rhythms of Modern Ambient.

With several critically acclaimed albums to his credit and represented on a number of prestigious compilations, Saul Stokes is recognized as one of the leading voices in modern Electronic Music. Described as "fresh and inventive," Stokes brings together elements of Space, Ambient, Industrial and Intelligent-Techno to forge a sound all his own. An avid concert performer, a Stokes show will often begin at a point of reference familiar to most and gradually lead the us far out into the sonic universe.

The immediacy of the live setting brings out Stokes' talent for creating floating Spacemusic. Appealing to our intelligence instead of insulting it, his best live moments have a delicate beauty that lingers with his audience. Bridging and binding the opposing energies of raw electricity and accomplished art, his music aligns perfectly with the beat and pulse beneath and behind everything. The sensitive ear of the sincere listener will acknowledge the live, vibrant timbres present at every level of a Stokes' concert. He is not arranging for the dance floor, but for the place in the mind where sensory detail becomes thought. The limit of effect is merely the limit of the musician's imagination. Versatile, alluring and inventive, with a fine ear for every novel discharge of the great modulators, Saul Stokes makes music for our time - and for all time.

Chaka Benson 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 one's self in Benson'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 **Saul Stokes** plus **Chaka Benson** live in concert on **Saturday 17 November 2018** 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. **Admission:** \$20 cash at the door, night of show; \$10 for full-time students with proper ID (available at the door).

Advance Tickets available from www.isotank.com

For more details please access www.thegatherings.org

The Gatherings Concert Series is presented by the all-volunteer staff of The Corporation for Innovative Music and Arts of Pennsylvania