

# Wet Ink Ensemble Announces Spring 2019 Concerts, Part Of 20th Anniversary Celebration

by BWW News Desk Jan. 29, 2019

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**Wet Ink Ensemble** announces its spring 2019 concerts, continuing the group's 20th anniversary season as a collective of composers, improvisers, and interpreters at the forefront of the performance and presentation of adventurous music. Named *The New York Times*'s "Best Ensemble of 2018," Wet Ink Ensemble's spring 2019 season includes the debut of *Wet Ink: Piano Trios* at the DiMenna Center in NYC, a residency at the Boston Conservatory, a performance of **Kate Soper's** lauded *IPSA DIXIT* at the University of Northern Colorado, a 20th Anniversary Bash at Roulette in NYC, and performances at Stetson University and New Music New College in Florida.

Wet Ink's season begins on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 8:00pm at The DiMenna Center for Classical Music with the ensemble's debut program of works for piano trio. The program features the world premiere of *if and only if*, a new set-length trio by Eric Wubbels (piano) written over an extended period of close collaboration for Josh Modney (violin) and Mariel Roberts (cello). *if and only if* combines a microscopic attention to tuning with the austerity and simplicity of Medieval music, following complexes of resonant, beating sound as they accumulate, breathe, and dissipate over the course of 45 minutes. The program also includes the US premiere of Toronto-based composer Linda Catlin Smith's *Dreamer Murmuring* (2014), a contemplative work evocative of Medieval chant and Messiaen-esque harmony, as well as Vicente Hansen Atria's dynamic trio *Speleology* (2016).

On Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at 9:00pm at NYC's Areté Venue and Gallery, Wet Ink's Josh Modney (violin) and Eric Wubbels (piano) perform an evening-length rendition of Anthony Braxton's *Composition No. 222* for violin and piano, from Braxton's *Ghost Trance Music* series. Wet Ink has become a champion of Braxton's music, from the ensemble's critically acclaimed portrait concert in celebration of Braxton's 70th birthday in 2016, praised by *The New York Times* as "dense, wild, yet artfully controlled," to Modney's solo violin recording of *Composition No. 222* on his album *Engage* (New Focus Recordings, 2018), lauded by Seth Colter Walls as "both respectful in its intentions and radical in its execution" (*The New York Times*), and the Wet Ink Large Ensemble's 2018 recording of *Composition No. 56* on *Wet Ink: 20* (Carrier Records). Having performed as a duo for nearly a decade, this will be Wubbels and Modney's first performance of *Composition No. 222*.

Part of a multi-day residency, Wet Ink brings a program of chamber music to Boston Conservatory on Sunday, February 24th, 2019 in a performance alongside students enrolled in the contemporary performance program.

Wet Ink presents a concert version of **Kate Soper's** highly praised *IPSA DIXIT* at the University of Northern Colorado on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 7:00pm, as well as a chamber concert of new works as part of UNC's Open Space Festival of New Music on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 5:00pm.

Composer/performer/writer **Kate Soper's** *IPSA DIXIT* is a genre-defying work of chamber music theatre that explores music, language, and meaning through blistering ensemble virtuosity and extended vocal technique. Developed over six years of collaboration with the Wet Ink Ensemble, *IPSA DIXIT* uses elements of monodrama, Greek tragedy, and performance art to skewer the treachery of language and the questionable authenticity of artistic expression. *IPSA DIXIT* was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in music.

On Monday, April 1st, 2019 at 8:00pm at Roulette Intermedium, Wet Ink Ensemble celebrates 20 years of adventurous music making in NYC and around the world with a concert celebrating the work of the ensemble's four acclaimed composer members - Alex Mincek, Sam Pluta, **Kate Soper**, and Eric Wubbels. The concert will feature a retrospective look at "classics" of Wet Ink's repertoire, including Alex Mincek's *From Nowhere to Nowhere* and **Kate Soper's** *Door*, and new sounds including Sam Pluta's *binary/momentary iii* for solo cello featuring Mariel Roberts and the world premiere of a new work for Wet Ink's core septet of composer-performers by Eric Wubbels.



# Wet Ink Ensemble Celebrates 20th Anniversary With Musical Bash At Roulette Intermedium

by BWW News Desk Mar. 5, 2019



On **Monday, April 1st, 2019 at 8:00pm**, the "sublimely exploratory" (The Chicago Reader) **Wet Ink Ensemble**, named The New York Times's "Best Ensemble of 2018," celebrates 20 years of adventurous music-making in a concert at Roulette Intermedium.

The anniversary bash celebrates the work of the Wet Ink Ensemble's four acclaimed composer members-Alex Mincek, Sam Pluta, **Kate Soper**, and Eric Wubbels-and features a retrospective look at "classics" of Wet Ink's repertoire, including Alex Mincek's *From Nowhere to Nowhere* and **Kate Soper's** *Door*, as well as new sounds including Sam Pluta's *binary/momentary iii* for solo cello featuring Mariel Roberts and the world premiere of a new work for Wet Ink's core septet of composer-performers by Eric Wubbels. Rounding out the program, the ensemble will perform Julien Malaussena's dynamic quintet *Concerning Articulated Sound Energy*.

Wet Ink Executive Director and violinist Josh Modney says, "We are proud to celebrate Wet Ink's 20th Anniversary with a program that highlights the various facets of our ensemble's mission, from Eric Wubbels's new septet work to Sam Pluta's *binary/momentary iii*, written for cello phenom and frequent Wet Ink collaborator Mariel Roberts, and a quintet by Julien Malaussena, a strong emerging voice on the contemporary music scene. In addition to these new collaborations, we will revisit two of our favorite works by Alex Mincek and **Kate Soper** from Wet Ink Ensemble's eponymous 2009 debut release on Carrier Records. We are thrilled to be celebrating this milestone at Roulette, which has long provided a home for our concerts, and look forward to continuing to cultivate Wet Ink's ethos of innovation through collaboration as we enter the ensemble's third decade."

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## This week: concerts in New York (April 1, 2019 – April 7, 2019)

**SAM REISING** on April 1, 2019 at 6:00 am

### WET INK: 20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

Wet Ink Ensemble celebrates 20 years of music making in NYC and around the world with a concert celebrating the work of the ensemble's four composer members—Alex Mincek, Sam Pluta, Kate Soper, and Eric Wubbels. The concert will feature a retrospective look at “classics” of Wet Ink's repertoire, including Alex Mincek's *From Nowhere to Nowhere* and Kate Soper's *Door*, and new sounds including Sam Pluta's *binary/momentary iii* for solo cello featuring Mariel Roberts and the world premiere of a new work for Wet Ink's core septet of composer-performers by Eric Wubbels.

Monday, April 1 at 8:00 PM

Tickets \$18 online, \$25 doors

Roulette, 509 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

## Wet Ink Ensemble

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The groundbreaking New York collaborative Wet Ink, formed in 1998 by a feisty, resourceful septet of composers, performers, and improvisers, is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this season. That alone is plenty admirable, but what's truly compelling about the group and its namesake ensemble is the endless energy and sheer audacity still evident in all their undertakings. This festive event focusses chiefly on old and new pieces by Wet Ink's four founding composers: Alex Mincek, Sam Pluta, Kate Soper, and Eric Wubbels.

— *Steve Smith*

April 1 at 8.

 Roulette  
509 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn  
Brooklyn

917-267-0368

[Website](#)

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[Tickets](#)

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From left, Erin Lesser, Josh Modney, Kate Soper and Ian Antonio of Wet Ink.  
Hiroyuki Ito for The New York Times

## The New York Times

### Classical Music: An Audacious Ensemble's Anniversary

April 1; [roulette.org](http://roulette.org)

Around two decades ago, a young generation of classical musicians emerged from conservatories and universities with a sense of dissatisfaction about the current landscape for contemporary composition. Rather than wait for establishment recognition, they decided to form their own ensembles, with unusual names like Alarm Will Sound and Eighth Blackbird. One of the most continuously imaginative of these groups is Wet Ink, which celebrates its 20th anniversary on April 1 with a concert at Brooklyn's Roulette. Inspired by the radical, improvisatory spirit of figures like Anthony Braxton and Christian Wolff, the group has revolved around the fiercely exploratory voices of its composer-performer members including Alex Mincek, Kate Soper, Eric Wubbels, and Sam Pluta, all of whose works will be featured in Monday's concert. *WILLIAM ROBIN*

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