

# ***FREUNDE GUTER MUSIK BERLIN e.V.***

Erkelenzdammm 11 – 13 B IV • 10999 Berlin • Telefon ++49-(0)30-215 6120  
info@freunde-guter-musik-berlin.de • www.freunde-guter-musik-berlin.de

Works of Music by Visual Artists

## **STEPHEN PRINA**

**»To the People of Berlin«**  
– Premiere –

for 12 string instruments, piano, percussion and electric guitar

Stephen Prina (The Red Crayola) – voice, electric guitar  
John Herndon (Tortoise) – percussion  
Orchester GENERATION BERLIN  
Directed by Christian von Borries

**June 21, 2000 • 8 p.m.**  
Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof  
Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin  
Invalidenstraße 50-51 • 10557 Berlin Tiergarten

Artist Stephen Prina, who was born 1954 in Illinois and lives in Los Angeles, makes reference to works in the fine arts, music, literature, film and philosophy in his projects. He ponders their context in society, history or the media in order to vary and reconfigure their underlying structures. The spectrum of his source material ranges from ancient writers to contemporary pop music. Prina recently garnered critical acclaim as a composer and musician for his CD »Push Comes to Love«. His spring 2000 solo exhibition at the Frankfurt Kunstverein gave an overview of his work as a visual artist.

On the place of music in his artistic work, Prina says: »My background in music has allowed a particular perspective from which to view certain issues, an entry into certain working methods. The discussion of originality, for instance, is different in music, where it's typical for musicians to pick up a theme by another artist and do variations of it.«

In the composition »To the People of Berlin« (2000) for 12 string instruments, piano, percussion and electric guitar, Prina refers, among other things, to songs by Peer Raben in the films of Rainer Werner Fassbinder as well as to a song from the film »The Eighties« by Chantal Ackerman. He builds these songs, which he sings himself, into the complex system of his composition, which consists of brief musical events, each approximately as long as a song. The work's title refers both to the site of the premiere and to the work »To the People of New York« by Blinky Palermo.

Events in the series »Works of Music by Visual Artists«  
are a co-production of Freunde Guter Musik Berlin e.V. and  
Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin.

Concept:

Ingrid Buschmann, Gabriele Knapstein, Matthias Osterwold  
FREUNDE GUTER MUSIK BERLIN e.V.

The concert was made possible by support from  
Hauptstadtkulturfonds and Verein der Freunde der Nationalgalerie.