



# The Frame Quartet

April 2010

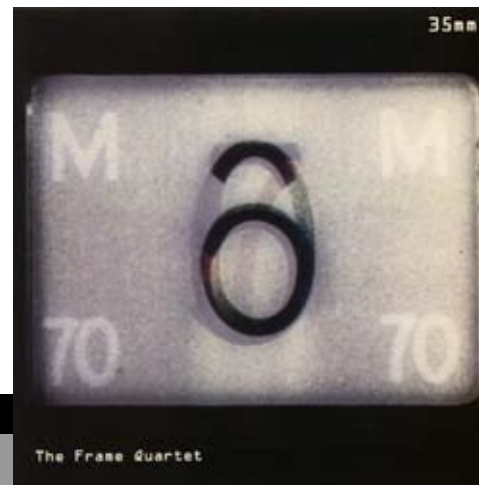
This ensemble, formed in early 2007, presents Ken Vandermark's most recent strategies for the integration of composition and improvisation. In addition to his tenor sax and clarinet, the line-up features long-time associates Fred Lonberg-Holm (cello & electronics), Nate McBride (acoustic & electric bass, electronics), and Tim Daisy (drums & percussion). All of the members of the quartet have worked with Vandermark in other formats, performing concerts in North America and Europe for many years. Collaborations of particular note include the Vandermark 5 (with Tim Daisy and Fred Lonberg-Holm), the Free Music Ensemble and Powerhouse Sound (with Nate McBride).

The compositions Vandermark has written for this group move further away from the jazz tradition than those for his previous bands. Utilizing adventurous ideas from other genres, such as underground Rock and New Music, or sources like Ennio Morricone's approach to film scoring, he has created a vehicle of expression that sounds and performs unlike any other music group working today.

Certain organizational concepts have been taken from construction methods found in the cinema, such as montage, cross cuts and cross

fades. This has been done to redirect the improvising, shifting it away from the conventional development found in most contemporary music environments. All of the predetermined elements are interfaced with a variety of improvisational tactics; the pieces can be spontaneously reformatted at each performance. In a sense, the actual structure of the music is improvised by the band, and with systems that can't always be predicted by the members of the group. In addition, each piece is always conducted by a different performer in the band.

The Frame Quartet began its work together on a tour of Europe in January, 2007. Since then they have been performing in their hometown of Chicago, developing new material together. The quartet returned to Europe a second time during September of 2009, and the ensemble recorded their first album, "35mm," for Okka Disk in July of that year. In 2010 the group continues to explore the structural innovations Vandermark has brought to the unit with performances in Chicago and Canada.



For further information, please visit the following link where you will find a high-resolution JPG, a downloadable bio and an MP3 clip:

<http://www.kenvandermark.com/media.php>

*“As one of Vandermark's most dynamic ensembles, The Frame Quartet rivals his flagship band, The Vandermark 5, for pure diversity of sound. But where The Vandermark 5 tends towards more organic compositional strategies, The Frame Quartet's audacious jump-cut aesthetic attains a distinct identity, making 35mm a unique item in Vandermark's oeuvre.”*

-Troy Collins, [www.allaboutjazz.com](http://www.allaboutjazz.com), October 7, 2009