



Bio information: **DENMAN MARONEY**
Title: **MEAN TIMES** (Cuneiform Rune 3409)
Format: DIGITAL
www.cuneiformrecords.com
FILE UNDER: **IMPROVISATION / CONTEMPORARY COMPOSITION**

“Conlon Nancarrow meets Thelonious Monk – a mathematical master with groove. Maroney manages to keep jazz in motion without demystifying it. Instead of displaying virtuosity, a collective consciousness unfolds that questions space, time, and sound... a composer who approaches jazz as if he's remeasured the universe.” - Alexander Moell, Amplified

Herb Robertson – trumpet
Ellery Eskelin – tenor saxophone
Denman Maroney – composition and sampled hyperpiano
Mark Dresser – bass
Phil Haynes – drums

Recorded April 11, 1995 live in concert at the Knitting Factory, New York NY.

I met trumpeter Herb Robertson in the 1970s through multi-instrumentalist David Simons, who invited him to join our band *Iota Jot Yod* with vocalist Shelley Hirsch and bassist Skip LaPlante, Ed Schuller, or Arthur Kell.

I met drummer Phil Haynes in the early 1990s when we both played in bassist Mark Dresser's quintet with trumpeter Dave Douglas and vocalist Theo Bleckmann.

I met saxophonist Ellery Eskelin at around the same time at Phil's Corner Store studio in Brooklyn.

I formed the band on this album in order to play along with digital samples of hyperpiano, which I had made because I feared the acoustic piano was an endangered species.

I called the piece *Mean Times*, not because times were mean, but because I was (and still am) interested in temporal harmony. Thus here mean means intermediary not nasty.

Now times are indeed mean meaning nasty, and Herb Robertson has died, so it feels right to release this recording despite the low fidelity.

Oscar Wilde said all art is quite useless. I disagree.