



Hal Rammel



Thomas Gaudynski



Steve Nelson-Raney

### **Audiotrope Artist Brief Bios**

**Hal Rammel** has been designing and building musical instruments since 1976. He was an active participant in the improvised and experimental music scene in Chicago from the early 1980s through the mid 90s. Now residing in southeastern Wisconsin, he performs frequently in freely improvised duets with Milwaukee saxophonist Steve Nelson-Raney, in the trio Audiotropen the trio Raccoons with Jon Mueller and Chris Rosenau, and in the ensemble I-Beam led by saxophonist Jason Weitlispach. He has performed and recorded with Johannes Bergmark, Davey Williams, LaDonna Smith, Russell Thorne, Michael Zerang, Matt Turner, Gene Coleman, and the Nihilist Spasm Band. Since 1992 he has hosted Alternating Currents, a weekly radio show (WMSE, 91.7 FM, Milwaukee) specializing in 20th century classical music, the avant garde music of the early years of this century, and the music of contemporary experimentalists. He is an author, graphic artist, and photographer. His full-length folklore study *Nowhere in America: The Big Rock Candy Mountain and Other Comic Utopias* (1990) was published by University of Illinois Press. In addition to his recordings on Penumbra, he has also released music on Crouton and E.K. Records.

**Thomas Gaudynski** is a self-taught musician, writer and life-long entrepreneurial scholar and educator. Gaudynski has been active in contemporary music, music/theatre and electro-acoustic improvisation since the mid 1970's. In addition to his own works for voice, electronics and unique ensembles, he has realized works by composers such as John Cage, Gavin Bryars, Alvin Lucier, Jackson Mac Low, Steve Reich, Christian Wolff, and John Zorn as well as members of Fluxus. A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he has performed throughout the United States and Canada and has worked extensively with Diana David and Paul Gaudynski as DG&G during the 1980s and Steve Nelson-Raney and Hal Rammel as Audiotropes since 1997. Gaudynski has also performed with musicians Fred Longberg-Holm, Michael Lytle, Malcolm Goldstein, Peter Kowald, among others, as well as dancers Debra Loewen, Cate Deicher, and Diane VanDerhei, poets Charles Alexander, John-Paul Curtay, and Jesse Glass, and video artist, Dennis Darnek.

Gaudynski plays electric guitar and violin, guitar-driven synthesizer, and often uses feedback and prerecorded sounds mixed live during performance. Necessary Arts has published Gaudynski's book *Artifacts:Essays on Music + Art + Design*(2001), his CD of electric violin solos, *52 + 8 or 11* (2003), *ArthritisMinus*(2003) duos with Paul Gaudynski, collected solo works, *3 Years Ago Tomorrow* (2004), and midi-bagpipe solos, *Pipe Balm* (2004).

**Steve Nelson-Raney** has been performing his own music since the late sixties. Since then he has given numerous concerts throughout the country and appeared with such musicians as Malcolm Goldstein, Peter Kowald, Ernie Watts, Michael Zerang and Tom Hamilton. Solo performances have included two in New York City. Nelson-Raney's current work includes continuation of ongoing improvisations for saxophone and piano, composition in various mediums and collaborations with other musicians, writers and visual artists (two notable collaborative performances have been with writers Anne Waldman and Tom Raworth). Nelson-Raney performs regularly as saxophonist in the free improvisation trio *Audiotropen* in a duo with percussionist Jon Mueller, as well as in a variety of other contexts in the Milwaukee area. Nelson-Raney holds a graduate degree in music from Bradley University. He has taught public school instrumental music in Illinois and jazz studies courses at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. He is active as a composer and performer throughout the country, working in both jazz and contemporary music idioms. In 1979 Nelson-Raney founded *Cody Records/Books* (later to become *CODYARTS*) as a vehicle for documenting and distributing his work. In 1997 Nelson-Raney co-founded *The Great Lakes Improvisation Project* which continues to present performances of new music in the Milwaukee area. Nelson-Raney is a senior lecturer in the Music Department of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, teaching theory/composition and jazz studies courses.

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