



# BEN KONO GROUP

## DON'T BLINK

A project made possible by the 2013 Chamber Music America: New Jazz Works Commissioning and Ensemble Development Grant

Band Website: [dontblinkmusic.org](http://dontblinkmusic.org)

Artist website: [benkono.com](http://benkono.com)

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"Don't Blink" is composer and bandleader Ben Kono's second foray into extended composition for his battery of woodwind instruments. Following the successful 2011 debut recording of the Ben Kono Group's "Crossing", Kono received a grant from Chamber Music America to compose a suite for the Group which was premiered at Cornelia Street Cafe in New York City in 2014. A new CD of the work, "Don't Blink", will be released in spring of 2017.

The arc of the work's narrative takes its shape from the composer's own interactions with the environment, and explores the emotional feedback through a succession of connected vignettes written for his group. From a metaphoric dream involving the hapless dodo, to reckless pollution of our waterways and political inaction, to an innocent encounter with an endangered monk seal, this collection of musical fables presents a narrative of environmental stewardship and moral responsibility, and to that end exploits the vast aural palette of the Group's musicians.

Ben Kono: woodwinds, composition  
Pete McCann: guitars  
Henry Hey: piano and Fender Rhodes  
Kermit Driscoll: basses  
Satoshi Takeishi: drums and percussion

Appearances at:

Bryant Park New Music Festival, NYC  
Hopper House Museum, Nyack, NY  
2016 Chamber Music America National Conference, NYC  
Cornelia Street Cafe, NYC  
Shapeshifter Lab, Brooklyn, NY

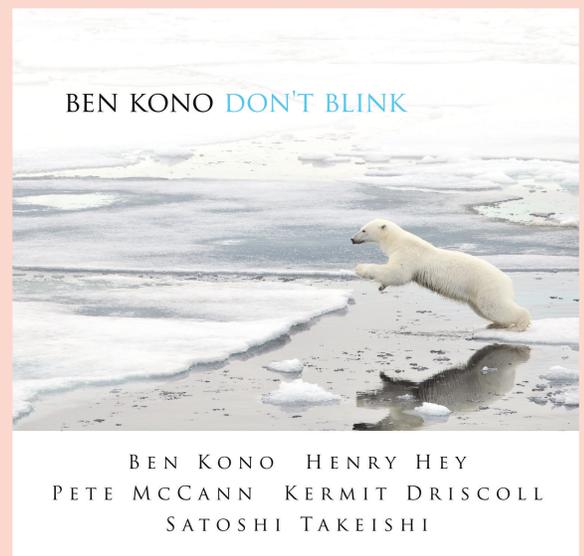
Press for "Crossing":

"Mr. Kono...has a gleaming new album, "Crossing" (Nineteen-Eight), that establishes his style as a bandleader-composer: cosmopolitan and unflappable, with a feel for rallying his sidemen."--Nate Chinen, *The New York Times*

"This potent sextet outing by composer and multi-instrumentalist Ben Kono unfolds like separate chapters of a novel, each revealing something about its author...--Bill Milkowski, *Jazz Times*

"The first time I listened to "Crossing"...the music stopped me cold. Not only does Kono play a slew of instruments, his compositions and arrangements are strikingly good. Kono creates an aural auto-biography that is as moving as it is musical...What a debut!"--Richard Kamins, *Step Tempest*

Jazz Journalists Association Top Ten Lists: Debut Recordings 2011



(proposed album artwork)

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