

# TU: A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY IMPROV BAND

BY BOB STICKEL

If “Progressive Rock” has been described in the past as “smart” music, then a performance by TU can only be categorized as “brilliant.”

TU is comprised of **Trey Gunn** and **Pat Mastelotto**, musical visionaries who create their sound on the spot, tailored to the specific audience. Progressive rock journeymen and King Crimson alumni, TU have performed all over the world. Their international fame has kept them busy enough to make a performance in Kirkland a rare and special occurrence.



The audience will wonder what they’re in for, when seeing a touch guitar, a myriad of percussion and a multi-media calliope. TU merges storytelling, visual imagery and music in a unique, one-of-a-kind performance. “There are many compositions...but we still leave lots of space in the show to ‘play the music in the room,’ Gunn explains, meaning that the evening will take place in *this* particular theater with *this* particular audience and

will reflect their mood and influences. “Good improvisers work to become aware of all of the variables and incorporate them in the performance in very specific and deliberate ways” Gunn says, brandishing the bizarre and complex Warr guitar that has captured the attention of musicians and enthusiasts world-wide.

Fans of progressive and experimental rock around the world have traced their influences back to the collaboration that TU conjures up on stage. And those lucky enough to have caught one of their clandestine and ultra-rare sold-out shows can attest to the level of musicianship that they’ve witnessed between the two members. “Because Pat and I have been playing together for nearly twenty years we know each other’s playing quite well. This gives us a lot of room to have fun onstage because we are so comfortable together. Sometimes you will see us talking, while we are playing, as we are making suggestions about where to take the music next. Or maybe we are sharing a joke or teasing each other” says Gunn.

The resulting merger of sound and vision, rehearsed compositions and on-the-spot improvisations drives the unique dynamic this duo has on stage. As “smart rock” has captivated musicians from all genres, TU will school you with the true “thinking-man’s music.”

**TU PERFORMS SATURDAY,  
APRIL 3 at 8pm. FOR TICKETS  
VISIT [www.kpcenter.org](http://www.kpcenter.org)**