

BY AARON JENTZEN

One of the most unusual recent "local" releases features the sounds not of a local musician, but of a Pittsburgh building. Yes, you read that right. Wrekmeister Harmonies: Recordings Made in Public Spaces Volume One, by Chicago sound artist J.R. Robinson, features ambient tones projected into museum spaces around the world, and then re-recorded to capture that space's sonic characteristics, or "sound templates." Robinson gave this treatment to the Andy Warhol Museum's lobby in 2007. I interviewed him for CP back in January 2008, when he returned to "deconstruct that recording in a live setting with a visual accompaniment," with help from members of U.S. Maple (Mark Shippy, Matt Carson) and The Jesus Lizard (David Yow).

The resulting 18-minute track, "Pittsburgh," kicks off his new album, now available on Atavistic Records. Unsettling and cathartic, it includes shuddering screams offset by gentle shimmering passages, clashing guitars, flurries of drums, sax by Ken Vandermark (seemingly overdubbed later) and of course, snatches of conversation recorded at the Warhol. Who knows? You might even have played a part in it. For more info, visit www.myspace.com/wrekmeisterharmonies.