

# John Zorn Marathon

## *Royce Triple Threat*

featuring Abraxas, Secret Chiefs 3 & Bladerunner

## *& The Hermetic Organ*



Sat, May 2

Royce Triple Threat  
Royce Hall  
8pm

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approximately 3 hours; Two  
intermissions

The Hermetic Organ  
Royce Hall  
Midnight

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approximately 45 minutes;  
No intermission

**PRE-SHOW TERRACE EVENT:**

Round-Robin Duets:  
A Musical Improvisation  
6:30 pm

Inspired by John Zorn's improvisational  
techniques, a group of UCLA student  
musicians play a round-robin of s  
pontaneous duets, culminating in  
a group improv-jam session.

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### ROYCE TRIPLE THREAT

8pm – Abraxas: *Psychomagia*

Aram Bajakian	Guitar
Eyal Maoz	Guitar
Kenny Grohowski	Drums
Shanir Blumenkranz	Gimbri

Intermission

9pm – Secret Chiefs 3: *Masada Book Two*

Trey Spruance	Guitar
Eyvind Kang	Violin
Ches Smith	Drums
Jason Schimmel	Guitar
Matt Lebofsky	Keyboards
Toby Driver	Bass

Intermission

10pm – Bladerunner

John Zorn	Sax
Bill Laswell	Bass
Dave Lombardo	Drums

### THE HERMETIC ORGAN

John Zorn	Solo Organ Improvisations
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### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Although organ was Zorn's first instrument (he often credits Lon Chaney in *The Phantom of the Opera* as a primal influence), in 2011 the saxophone great surprised even his hardcore fans by initiating a new series of solo organ concerts in churches around the world. The music is breathtaking, and distinguished by a spiritual mood that only a huge pipe organ like Royce Hall's Skinner can create. A perfect outlet for Zorn's dramatic sense of color and contrast, this performance reveals the composer's mind at work in all its permutations.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER:

Artist vision. Undiluted. So reads the credo of Tzadik, visionary composer, arranger, producer, multi-instrumentalist and MacArthur Fellow John Zorn's not-for-profit cooperative record label. Zorn's impact on contemporary music worldwide is immeasurable. His vision is vital and relentlessly prolific. As we have worked with John Zorn over the course of almost two years to help realize his vision for this robust day of performance, his first time in Los Angeles in 25 years, we have borne witness to his deep sense of rigor and the profound persistence of his undiluted artist vision.

Zorn's remarkably diverse aesthetic draws inspiration from art, literature, film, theater, philosophy, alchemy, and mysticism. For those of you here tonight who were also among the many intrepid explorers of Zorn's artistic vision through the halls of the permanent collections of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art earlier today, we thank you for joining us on this marathon. And we suspect you're still vibrating with the incredible energy brought to that space by a group of truly commanding musicians—Kinan Idnawi, Mellissa Hughes, Kirsten Sollek, Jane Sheldon, Jack Quartet, Kenny Wollesen, Carol Emanuel, Chris Otto, Kevin Mcfarland, Dave Lombardo, William Winant, Nava Dunkelman and Zorn himself. Today's musical progress through LACMA could not have happened without our friends Claire Kim, Jane Burrell and Mitch Glickman at LACMA.

It is an experience we will not soon forget. We are incredibly grateful to them, all the artists and everyone at LACMA for saying yes to making that experience happen. Everyone who steps into the hall tonight will keep the vibration going, into the wee small hours of tomorrow after Zorn's eclectic midnight organ recital.

It has truly been a marathon, one that has gathered so much momentum as this epic moment in the art of performance drew near. Helping set the tone for tonight on the Royce Terrace are artists from our most immediate community, UCLA students and faculty who have been influenced by Zorn's work. Our thanks also go to Ganavya Doraiswamy, Elizabeth Erickson, Hassan Estakhrian, Putu Hiranmayena, Aaron Hogan, Molly Jones, AJ Kluthm Elisabeth Le Guin, Steven Loza, Alex W. Rodriguez, Mehrenegar Rostami, Richard Savery, Otto Stuparitz, Andrea Vancura, Jordan Watson, Dave Wilson, who performed a series of improvisational duets, inspired by Zorn's compositional techniques.

Today is for all of us. For everyone Zorn has influenced, inspired, thrilled or challenged—artists and music lovers, Zorn aficionados and newcomers to his work, collaborators and curiosity seekers. Today is a beautiful example of what we make together as artists and audiences. Together, in this moment in time we become the permanent collection of this project. There will be no John Zorn Marathon album to re-visit, no poster or painting to hang on a wall. But there will be all of us. We are the keepers and caretakers of this incredible moment in the art of performance.

Thank you for being part of the permanent collection.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



### BLADERUNNER

#### John Zorn (Saxophone)

Born and raised in New York City, composer/performer John Zorn has been a central figure in the Downtown Scene since 1975, incorporating a wide variety of creative musicians into various compositional formats. His work is remarkably diverse and draws inspiration from Art, Literature, Film, Theatre, Philosophy, Alchemy and Mysticism as well as Music. He founded the Tzadik label in 1995, runs the East Village performance space The Stone and has edited and published seven volumes of musician's writings under the title *ARCANA*.

#### Bill Laswell (Bass)

Over the course of some three decades, visionary bassist-producer Bill Laswell has been one of the most prolific and restlessly creative forces in contemporary music. A sound conceptualist who has always been a step ahead of the curve, he has put his inimitable stamp on nearly 3,000 recording projects by such artists as Mick Jagger, Yoko Ono, Iggy Pop, Laurie Anderson, Brian Eno, Bootsy Collins, Nine Inch Nails, Motorhead, Peter Dinklage, Blur, The Ramones, George Clinton, Pharoah Sanders, The Dalai Lama, Matisyahu, Angelique Kidjo, DJ Krush, Rammstein, Sting, The Last Poets, Afrika Bambaataa, Julian Schnabel, Whitney Houston, Manu Dibango, Fela Kuti and most notably Herbie Hancock, who collaborated with Laswell for the pivotal 1983 smash-hit single *Rock-It* which introduced scratching to the mainstream, inspired a generation of turntablists and gave the great jazz pianist instant street credibility among the burgeoning hip-hop cognoscenti.

#### Dave Lombardo (Drums)

David "Dave" Lombardo (born February 16, 1965, in Havana, Cuba) is a Cuban American drummer and a co-founding member of the American thrash metal band Slayer. Lombardo's music career has spanned more than 30 years, during which he has been involved in the production of 35 commercial recordings extending over a number of genres with bands such as Grip Inc., Fantômas, Philm, and Testament. Lombardo is most widely known as a very aggressive and exceptionally skilled heavy metal drummer. His use of the drums have been called "astonishingly innovative"[4] and earned him the title "the godfather of double bass" from *Drummer World*.







## SECRET CHIEFS 3

### Trey Spruance (Guitar)

Trey Spruance is one of the most versatile and experimental rock guitarists of modern times. In 1985, the guitarist hooked up with some fellow high school musicians (including singer Mike Patton and bassist Trevor Dunn, among others), to form Mr. Bungle. In addition to the many bands that Spruance is a member of, he has also produced albums for other artists (Neil Hamburger's *America's Funnyman*, Tub Ring's *Drake Equation*, Dieselhed's *Tales of a Brown Dragon*) and guested on other artists' recordings, as well (Melt Banana's *Charlie*, Machine for Making Sense's *Dissect the Body*). Spruance also runs his own record label, Mimicry Records, whose website stocks most of the recordings he has appeared on over the years ([www.webofmimicry.com](http://www.webofmimicry.com)).

### Eyvind Kang (Violin)

Eyvind Kang's prodigious recording career is surprising considering it's less than a decade old. Working since 1995, he can be heard on more than 50 records, collaborating with the likes of Sun City Girls, Bill Frisell, Secret Chiefs, Blonde Redhead, Robin Holcomb, Laurie Anderson and many others. He is one of the most original and exciting violinists currently performing in the underground, a fact cemented all the more by his accomplished solo recordings.

### Ches Smith (Drums)

Born in San Diego, CA and raised in Sacramento, Ches Smith came up in a scene of punks and metal musicians who were listening to and experimenting with jazz and free improvisation. He currently performs and records with Xiu Xiu and Secret Chiefs 3. He has also performed with Ben Goldberg, Annie Gosfield, Wadada Leo Smith, John Tchicai, Fred Frith, and Trevor Dunn. He also leads his two of his own projects, Congs for Brums and These Arches. He currently spends his time between Los Angeles, San Francisco and Brooklyn.

### Jason Schimmel (Guitar)

With a command of countless genres and a vast list of credits, L.A.-based composer/guitarist Jason Schimmel is a musical polymath whose talents know no bounds. His seamlessly eclectic style—previously on display in boundary-defying bands Estradasphere and Secret Chiefs 3—calls on anything from surf rock to big-band jazz to Balkan folk to heavy metal. Schimmel has worked with a dizzying array of underground icons and virtuosos, including John Zorn, Trey Spruance, Amanda Palmer, J.G. Thirlwell, Neil Hamburger, Eyvind Kang, Wayne Horvitz, Jason Webley, Carla Kihlstedt, Matt Chamberlain, Tim Young, Michael White and many more.

### Matt Lebofsky (Keyboards)

Matt Lebofsky is an Oakland, California based multi-instrumentalist and composer who studied piano/composition with Arthur Cunningham from 1978-1988. He is currently active in several bands such as miRthkon, MoeTar, Secret Chiefs 3, Bodies Floating Ashore, The Fuxedos, Three Piece Combo, Research & Development, Midline Errors, Fuzzy Cousins and JOB. Matt is also a computer programmer, webmaster, and database/systems administrator, and has been a core member of the small staff developing/maintaining the world's largest distributed computing project SETI@home (located at the University of California at Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory) since 1997.

### Toby Driver (Bass)

Toby Driver is a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and artist, best known for his work as the frontman of the experimental bands Maudlin of the Well and Kayo Dot. Driver creates the majority of the album artwork associated with these bands, performs the majority of the lead vocals, and has written and arranged most of the music for both bands.



## ABRAXAS

### Aram Bajakian (Guitar)

Guitarist Aram Bajakian has performed and worked with some of the most aesthetically diverse artists of our time including Lou Reed during his final two tours in 2011 and 2012. Bajakian also performed over 100 concerts alongside multiple Grammy winner Diana Krall during her much lauded *Glad Rag Doll* Tour in 2012 and 2013. He has shared the stage with saxophonists John Zorn and Yusef Lateef, guitarists Marc Ribot and Nels Cline, saxophone virtuoso James Carter, bass legend Jamaaladeen Tacuma, violist Mat Maneri, the original Can singer, Malcolm Mooney, Polaris Prize winner and Inuk singer Tanya Tagaq and Canadian super group, the Barenaked Ladies.

### Eyal Maoz (Guitar)

Based in New York City, Israeli-born Eyal Maoz is a sought after composer, guitarist, and bandleader. He's a Tzadik, Ayler, Out Now and Piadrum Records artist and a member of John Zorn's Cobra and Abraxas ensembles. Eyal leads his own bands including Edom (Tzadik Records), 9 Volt with Tim Berne, the Maoz-Sirkis Duet, Hypercolor, and the Maoz-Masaoka Duet (with koto player Miya Masaoka).

### Kenny Grohowski (Drums)

Brought up in a musical household in Miami, 29-year-old drummer, Kenny Grohowski has been performing since the age of 14. His rich musical background is demonstrated through the growing list of his collaborators and guest artists, including Vernon Reid, Corey Unger (of Blood Has Been Shed), Emeline Michel, Peter Cincotti, Jorge Sylvester, Bobby Sanabria, Bill T. Jones, Rory Stuart, Cassandra Wilson, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Giovanni Hidalgo, John Benitez, Francis Mbappe, Domingo Quinones, and Bobby Valentin. Grohowski has been a member of bassist Lonnie Plaxico's band since 2003, and a member of Andy Milne's Dapp Theory since 2006. He also was a touring member of Trey Spruance's Secret Chiefs 3 in 2012.

### Shanir Blumenkranz (Bass / Gimbri)

Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz has recorded and performed extensively with Satlah, Rashanim, and Pharaoh's Daughter, all who have made many records on John Zorn's Tzadik label. He has also collaborated with Ravi Coltrane, Fred Sherry, Satoshi Takeshi, Hank Roberts, Sabir Mateen, Roy Campbell Jr., Tony Malaby, Will Connell, Jon Madof, Daniel Zamir, Jenny Scheinman, Daniel Kelly, Eyal Maoz, Avishai Cohen, Kevin Zubeck, Marc Ribot, Kenny Wollesen, Bill Laswell, John Zorn and more.

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