



Top: Orkestar Zirkonium performs at Honk! Fest West, 2012. Above: Charging toward a wedding at the base of Mount Rainier, 2013 (Paul Joseph Brown). Below: Under the Viaduct, the band encounters a warehouse party spilling into the street, Downtown Seattle, 2009 (Denny Trimble).



ORKESTAR ZIRKONIUM (Seattle) is an American brass-and-drum ensemble that formed in 2003 to play the propulsive, virtuosic brass music of the Eastern European Romani diaspora. Described by *The Stranger* as “the sound of dizzy joy” and inspired by Goran Bregovic, Boban Markovic and others, the group performs traditional popular music from Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and beyond, as well as original dance tunes generated by the band.

Zirkonium’s energetic on- and offstage shows have electrified theatres, street parties, clubs, cultural halls, parks, weddings, rooftops, and a variety of commercial spaces. In recent years the group has opened for Balkan-music greats including Fanfare Ciocaria, Kocani Orkestar, and Balkan Beat Box; played as special guests of festivals including Boston’s HONK! Fest, Nevada’s Burning Man, and the Festival International de Louisiane; and celebrated their home state’s first day of marriage equality by playing City Hall for hundreds of newlywed couples.

CONTACT/BOOKING

info@orkestarzirkonium.com

MUSIC, VIDEOS AND MORE

www.orkestarzirkonium.com



PERSONNEL

Kevin Hinshaw	clarinet
Ivan Molton	alto saxophone
Donn Cave	baritone saxophone
Ron Barrow	trumpet
Eric Padget	trumpet
Erik Peters	trumpet
Tschuai Sessiz	trumpet
Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser	alto horn
Scott Rinnan	trombone
Jeff Walker	trombone
Jerry Neufeld-Kaiser	tuba
Sari Breznau	hand percussion
Greg Bumpus	snare drum
Matt Manges	snare & doumbek
Anne Mathews	davul

DISCOGRAPHY

Too Hot for Sleep!
(full-length CD)
2012, self-released

Orkestar Zirkonium
(full-length CD)
2008, self-released

Orkestar Zirkonium
(limited-release EP)
2007, self-released

*Top: Band portrait by Jed Dunkerley. Above:
Band logo by Corianton Hale.*

SELECTED PRESS

“Orkestar Zirkonium is a 13-piece marching band with bouncy tuba rhythms, circus-y horn flourishes, and a killer clarinetist (Kevin Hinshaw) who sounds like he’s been airlifted from a concert of *Rhapsody in Blue* and dropped into a Bulgarian brass band playing around a campfire. Drawing members from Circus Contraption, Infernal Noise Brigade, Reptet, and other projects, Zirkonium came to life as a mischievous marching band that played impromptu concerts in streets, bars, and supermarkets, collecting crowds as they went. Since then, they’ve played commissioned gigs and recorded *Too Hot for Sleep!* at Avast! in Seattle. . . . The result is an exuberant dose of Northwest Balkan brass.”
—*The Stranger*

“The perfect soundtrack for an Eastern European wedding.”

—*Seattle Weekly*

“Orkestar Zirkonium’s sound is big, raucous and feverish—an altogether brazen distillation of the willful abandon of a permanently displaced people. Consider [their debut album] the audio equivalent of an evening spent knocking back frosty mugs of lager in a frenzy of drunken debauchery.”

—(*Sound*)

“Hot polyrhythmic intertwines . . . a big full sound . . . pumping tuba [and] a decidedly nasty trumpet section . . . great voicings that evince more than a hint of Eastern-European ethos while at times Latin, Spanish and jazz seep through for a great multi-ethnic stew . . . a wild brass-infested excursion. This is great *tukhes*-shaking music with a depth of composition and style that keeps it from becoming cartoonish—Orkestar Zirkonium is the real deal.”

—*All About Jazz*

“Unexpected, offbeat musical spectacles [and a] lively, raucous repertoire.”

—*Seattle magazine*

“Able to shake the pillars of heaven in your setting of choice. One couldn’t really ask for a better ecstatic party band this side of Fela’s casket (or the actual Balkans).”
—*The Stranger*