



ORKESTAR ZIRKONIUM

In Seattle, amid the waterlogged remnants of squandered old-growth forests, broken-down breweries, industrial warehouses, and labor union halls, a mobile fourteen-piece brass-punk band borrows performative style and Balkan/klezmer-influenced sounds from the greats of the Roma tradition, plunging into crowds and galvanizing joyous derangement in every time signature.

Orkestar Zirkonium's ten horn players and four percussionists hail from projects including the noir troupes Circus Contraption and Cirque de Flambe, the punk marching units Infernal Noise Brigade and the Anti-Fascist Marching Band, and the experimental jazz outfits Reptet and Empty Cage Quartet. All fourteen players share an intense fascination with the radically propulsive music of Fanfare Ciocarlia, Goran Bregovic, Boban Markovic, Kocani Orkestar, and Esmá Redžepova. The group's repertoire of cathartic dance music features original compositions as well as traditional and pop standards from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, India, Ethiopia, and beyond.

Since its founding in 2003, the group has accumulated players, fine-tuned its scrappy attack, and performed in art-deco theatres, grimy clubs, daylight parks, condemned buildings, busy midnight intersections, and surprised taverns, coffeehouses, and commercial spaces. The band's on- and offstage perambulations invite onlookers into a participatory role and recalibrate the relationship between performer and audience; its scathingly celebratory uptempo sounds inspire street parties, traditional Eastern European line dances, and the ecstatic abandonment of reason.

LINEUP

Samantha Boshnack	trumpet
Sari Breznau	percussion
Donn Cave	baritone saxophone
Colin Ernst	trombone
Kevin Hinshaw	clarinet
Ted Lockery	trumpet
Stephen Lohrentz	trumpet
Paul Kikuchi	percussion
Matt Manges	snare drum
Anne Mathews	bass drum
Ivan Molton	alto saxophone
Jerry Neufeld-Kaiser	tuba
Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser	alto horn
Jeff Walker	trombone

Above: Orkestar Zirkonium performs at the See/Listen/Taste/Feel fundraiser for the Henry Art Gallery, curated by Jeppe Hein, Seattle, January 2009. Below: Under the Viaduct, the band encounters a warehouse party spilling into the street, Downtown Seattle, March 2009.



CONTACT AND BOOKING

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SELECTED PRESS

“Orkestar Zirkonium has made a name for itself by taking the party to the streets, a practice that is becoming a regular phenomenon in the band’s Seattle hometown. This 14-piece drum and brass ensemble is a true-to-the-name marching band, and it takes its act anywhere from the dusty corners of local taverns to the produce aisle of a neighborhood supermarket, usually leaving a flurry of Gypsy-inspired pandemonium in its immediate wake. . . . 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*), April 2009

“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*, August 2008

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

—*Seattle* magazine, December 2007

“It feels a little strange to say, but Balkan brass massive Orkestar Zirkonium may well be my favorite band in Seattle. Having previously existed in various roster-shifting, event-specific incarnations over the years, they have more recently emerged from their faux-diamond in the rough state to become a truly awesome ensemble, one 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), so this New Year’s Eve engagement should demand your bottle-popping, sweaty-dancing, Romany-exultant attendance.”

—*The Stranger*, December 2007

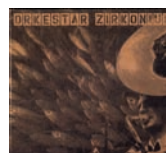
“The sound of dizzy joy.”

—*The Stranger*, July 2007

DISCOGRAPHY

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

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



SELECTED PERFORMANCE HISTORY

2004

Gasworks Park, Seattle
Winter Solstice Festival, Seattle

2005

Fremont Solstice Parade, Seattle
Highway 99 Club, Seattle

2006

Hale’s Palladium, Seattle
Consolidated Works, Seattle
Whidbey Institute, Whidbey
Island
Bike-In Outdoor Movie Festival,
Seattle
The Lawrimore Project, Seattle

2007

Jules Mae’s Saloon, Seattle
Daughters of the American
Revolution Hall, Seattle
Eagles Club, Olympia
Vera Project, Seattle
Jack Straw Studios, “Sonarchy”
radio appearance, KEXP, Seattle
Sounds Outside Festival, Seattle

2008

Neumos, Seattle
Pier 30, Seattle
Hall of the Woods, Olympia
WOW Hall, Eugene
KPSU Studios, Portland
Mt. Tabor Theater, Portland

KEXP Studios, Seattle
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle
Gay Pride Parade, Seattle
Seattle International Children’s Festival
Free Sheep Foundation, Seattle

2009

Neumos, Seattle
Vera Project, Seattle
Honk Fest West, Seattle
Chop Suey, Seattle
Folklife Festival, Seattle
Showbox, Seattle
Moore Theatre, Seattle
Town Hall, Seattle
Tractor Tavern, Seattle