

M'LUMBO AND JANE IRA BLOOM

The legendary long-running yet ever-mutating ensemble
M'lumbo proudly presents **Celestial Mechanics**



The culmination of over a decade worth of live collaborations with Grammy-winning **Jane Ira Bloom**, winner of the 2020 Downbeat Critics Poll for soprano saxophone, this release follows hot on the heels of M'lumbo's collaboration Fairytale Aliens with Helmet leader **Page Hamilton**, who is also onboard the new album as special guest.

This double album is a compendium of Space Age Jazz, Electronica, Rock and exotica, two and a half hours of extraordinary musicianship and a pinnacle of collective empathy and reaction.

This will mark the band's second release with the marvelous Grammy-winning **Ropeadope** records, whose fantastic catalog and sense of community is unrivaled among contemporary record labels.



M'LUMBO



M'lumbo takes the familiar and makes the earth slide.

– *New York Newsday*

It's Mickey Mouse, the Stanford University marching band, Santana and Syd Barrett rolled into one... borders on genius.

– *Baltimore City Paper*

M'lumbo makes world music for some world other than Earth.

– *Dirty Linen*

To approach a merely adequate description, try and imagine a combination of Miles Davis, Sun Ra, traditional African music, and early Bonzo Dog Band... Very exciting, filled with unbridled energy and humor. The musicianship is superb and the arrangements exceptionally creative.

– *Alternative Press*

Celestial Mechanics

M'Lumbo and Bloom share a general emphasis on space with Sun Ra. In some ways, however, they can be seen as approaching the unknown from an opposite perspective. While Sun Ra was an outsider visiting earth, one senses this band is instead exploring our continued spreading of radio waves through space. Their use of standards and pop music further underscores this impression. Throughout his career, Sun Ra would frequently transform these types of songs, including Disney themes and a soundtrack for Batman, into new creations. M'Lumbo and Bloom do so as well with Monk's "Crepuscle with Nelly," and the themes to Hawaii Five-O and Sesame Street. The way these are approached, however, seemingly mimic radio waves continuing outward. In every case, fragments of the original remain while the surroundings change perspectives. This is arguably best seen on "Rock Around the Clock Remix 2020" where the Bill Haley classic is deconstructed and mixed with bells and a wide array of samples such as dialogues, cuckoo clock chimes, and synthesizers.



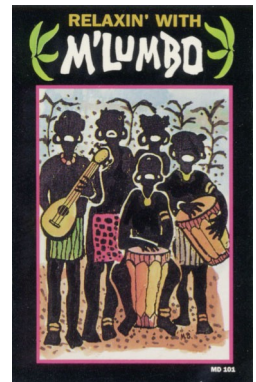
The originals are no less ambitious. "I Am the Musical Scale of Today" merges spoken word, moody piano chords, samples of 1950s bop, free sax solos, screeches, Headhunters-era Herbie Hancock, and George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" are fused into a unique whole. [sic] "Yes, We Can Remix 2020" modifies speeches by Presidents Obama and Trump to find their rhythmic cadences and form a rough shell of a song that is seemingly filled with improvisation. In both cases, the band mirrors Sun Ra's longstanding approach of pulling from different ideas and approaches. That is not to say that other influences – heavy metal, hip hop sampling techniques, and even On the Corner era Miles Davis appear throughout – are not present. However, the influence of Sun Ra remains undeniable. Whether his band or another, the legacy of the great composer from Saturn continues to endure and guide future generations. The freedom inherent in his art leaves enough room for others to put in their own concepts and push their ideas into new realms, new unmarked territories. Space is the Place.

Rob Shepard, *Post Genre Music – Beyond Category*



M'lumbo was founded in the mid-80's by Robert "M'botto" Ray and "Zombie" Ron Boggs as an escape from commercial music. They were then in, amongst other things, a "rock" band managed by Mick Jagger's manager which included Page Hamilton. To their surprise, early

handmade cassettes began selling briskly at local record stores, leading to radioplay on over 100 U.S. stations and many rave reviews.



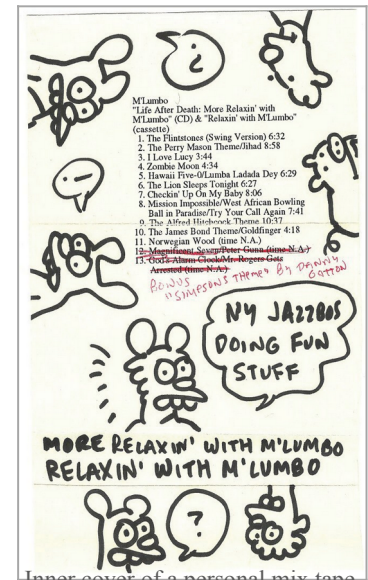
They have since been featured on over 300 public, college and progressive radio stations worldwide, including syndicated shows featuring their music. They and their multimedia crew have done commercials, films and work for MTV, MTV 2, Chrysler, Mini Cooper, and Hyundai; and have drawn countless enraptured reviews, received an ocean of comparisons to Miles Davis, Sun Ra and The Orb, and praise from such disparate avatars as Simpsons' creator Matt Groening, Brian Eno, Carly Simon, DJs Olive and Spooky, Neil Young and Tom Waits, and have influenced several bands along the way (e.g. Sex Mob, Either/Orchestra).

M'lumbo has given countless enthralling performances over the years at both



the original and second Knitting Factory (and even the third), as well as at numerous other NYC venues such as Joe's Pub, S.O.B.'s, and St. Anne's Cathedral, with opening acts such as Neotropic, Sean Lennon, Badawi, Mantronix, virtual reality inventor Jaron Lanier, Jojo Meyer's Nerve, dj Muttamasik and Duncan Sheik, with constant recommendations of their shows by Time Out New York, The New Yorker and the Village Voice, and feature articles in The New York Daily News, New York Newsday and New York Press.

Over the years in its different incarnations the band has released albums on labels such as Warner Brothers, Staalplaat and World Domination. Group members have worked as sidemen, directors, editors and sound designers to a host of world-class artists and clients ranging from MTV to Chrysler, ESPN to Abbey Lincoln, Mazda to Luther Vandross, Methodman to Pacha Massive, Gil Evans to P Diddy, Pharrell to Pearl Jam.



Inner-cover of a personal mix-tape by Matt Groening, creator of The Simpsons





M'lumbo's boho splendour! forget the Lounge Lizard's fake jazz, this is fuck-jazz; highly accomplished and highly irreverent at once (Psychotronic), skit-skating through the musical spectrum in a hyperactive-inspired burst of creativity and rhythm. — B-Side

Imagine a collision between Tackhead, Eno-era Talking Heads, Bill Laswell, 70s Miles Davis... Mere words cannot do justice to convey the musical construction that you are going to hear. — Dead Earnest

For the past few years, they have the “six-string virtuoso” (Time nominated band Helmet; with Grammy Award winner Jane Ira Bloom, the possessor of “one of the most gorgeous tones and hauntingly lyrical conceptions of any soprano saxophonist” (Pulse); and with the eclectic and virtuosic Gary Lucas, “one of the best and most original guitarists in America” (Rolling Stone). Some



of the fruits of these collaborations can be heard on their recent releases *Celestial Ghetto*, *Tuning In To Tomorrow* and *Popular Science*, on the last of which they returned after long hiatus to wild reinterpretations of famous pop culture “standards”.

M'lumbo's previous album, **Fairytale Aliens / M'lumbo with Page Hamilton**, was released in Spring 2020 on Ropeadope Records. Here M'lumbo and Page endeavor to change the course of music again with an album of hallucinogenic post-Rock. Page Hamilton, the leader of Helmet, has had a large impact on a great many popular artists, including Faith No More, Marilyn Manson, Korn, Pantera, Mastodon, System of a Down, Tool, Deftones, Mr. Bungle, and Godsmack. He has worked with artists ranging from David Bowie to Nine Inch Nails and Linkin Park, and has scored several major motion pictures.



Wild, Wild Stuff! Suitable for anyone with an ear for pop culture and new ways to implement it. Infectiously Wonderful! Both familiar and alien at once! Designed to draw you in, bounce you around, and leave you hoping for more in the future.

Who are these guys??

— *Mike Gunderloy, Factsheet Five*

Every so often, you find something new that delivers unexpected pleasure! Total zaniness that WILL transport you to M'lumbo's own Twilight Zone!

— *The Boston Herald*



This crazy gem of a release skit-scats all over the musical spectrum in a hyperactive-inspired burst of creativity and rhythm. — *B-SIDE*

M'lumbo rolls all their eclectic styles into one zesty stew. Where do these guys come from? Or, should we ask, who brought them to Earth?

— *REFLEX*

It's Mickey Mouse, The Stanford University marching band, Santana and Syd Barrett rolled into one... borders on genius.

— *Baltimore City Paper*

Top-notch, delivers on the wasted promise of ambient music.

— *Alternative Press*

M'lumbo works as a kind of large band multi-voiced paean to retro-futurism. ... These folks are into something.

— *GappleGate Music Review*



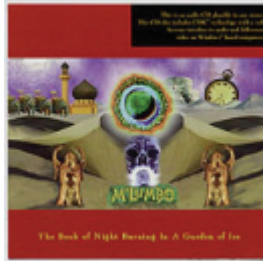
If you've ever seen the painting of Jean-Michel Basquiat and other neo-expressionists you know what my mind sees when I'm listening to M'Lumbo. Some familiar images that are surrounded by washes of color in different intensities, patterns, and combinations. This should probably be filed under jazz but it is about nine times that. ... The colors and textures are all part of the whole and it is all quite amazing.

— *Sea of Tranquility*



Close to genius. — *The Boston Globe*

Other Releases by M'lumbo



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Links: mlumbo.com
facebook.com/Mlumbomusic
facebook.com/mlumbo
youtube.com/user/mlumboable/videos
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Jane Ira Bloom is a soprano saxophonist whose sound is often described with such words as soaring, poetic, quicksilver, spontaneous and instantly identifiable. She has been steadfastly developing her singular voice on the soprano saxophone for over 40 years, creating a body of music that marks her as an American original. She's a pioneer in the use of live electronics and movement in jazz, as well as the possessor of "one of the most gorgeous tones and hauntingly lyrical ballad conceptions of any soprano saxophonist" (Pulse). She is the winner of the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Surround Sound Album for her trio album *Early Americans*.

An eleven-time winner of the Jazz Journalists Award for soprano sax of the year, the Downbeat International Critics Poll for soprano saxophone, the Mary Lou Williams Women In Jazz Award for lifetime service to jazz, the Charlie Parker Fellowship for Jazz Innovation and the International Women in Jazz Jazz Masters Award. Bloom is the first musician ever commissioned by the NASA Art Program, and was honored to have an asteroid named in her honor by the International Astronomical Union (asteroid 6083janeirabloom).



Bloom continues to find inspiration in creating exploratory music with improvising musicians from around the world. She has recorded and produced 17 albums of her music dating from 1977 to the present. In 1976 she founded her own record label and publishing company (Outline Music) and later recorded for ENJA, CBS, Arabesque, Pure Audio, and Artistshare Records.

Bloom has been the subject of a number of media profiles; she has been featured on CBS TV's Sunday Morning, Talkin' Jazz on NBC-TV, TIME Magazine's Women: The Road Ahead special issue, in the publication *Jazzwomen: Conversations w/ 21 Musicians*, in the Library of Congress Women Who Dare calendar, in Life Magazine's Living Jazz Legends, on NPR's Morning Edition, Jazzset, Live From the Kennedy Center w/ Dr. Billy Taylor, and in the documentary film *Reed Royalty* hosted by Branford Marsalis.



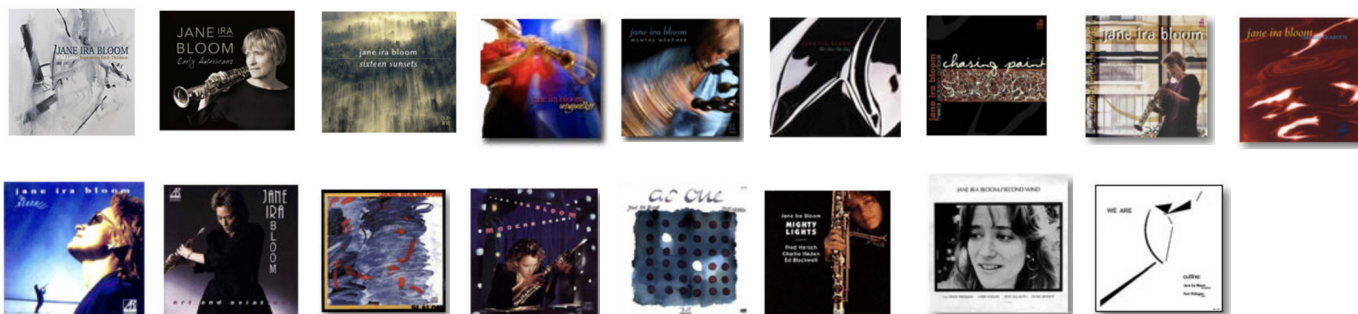
She is a professor at the New School's College of the Performing Arts School of Jazz in NYC, holds degrees from Yale University and Yale School of Music, and studied saxophone with woodwind virtuoso Joseph Viola.

Nat Hentoff has called Bloom an artist "beyond category." Bill Milkowski has called her "A true jazz original... a restlessly creative spirit, and a modern day role model for any aspiring musician who dares to follow his or her own vision."

Jane has again won The Downbeat International Critics Poll and the Jazz Journalists Association Award for best Soprano Saxophonist (2020), and is featured in the August 2019 issue of Vanity Fair in their article “Sisters Of Swing”.

M'lumbo and Jane Ira Bloom have had a long-running and fruitful collaboration to great effect, including enthusiastically reviewed shows at N.Y.C.'s Joe's Pub and The Knitting Factory, appearances on three of M'lumbo's ground-breaking albums and culminating in the forthcoming double album, **Celestial Mechanics / M'lumbo and Jane Ira Bloom**.

Jane Ira Bloom – Releases to Date



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Page Hamilton is a guitarist, singer, songwriter, composer and record producer. Soon after working with M'lumbo founders Rob and Ron, Page proceeded to the heart of Lower East Side avant-garde guitar music, recording and performing with Band of Susans and composer Glenn Branca. He then formed the wildly influential and popular band Helmet, where he continues to be the singer, lead guitarist and only constant member.

Helmet has had a large impact on a great many popular artists, including Faith No More, Marilyn Manson, Korn, Pantera, Mastodon, System of a Down, Tool, Deftones, Mr. Bungle, and Godsmack. Page has even worked with bands whom Helmet has inspired, recording with Linkin Park



and

Nine Inch Nails, and producing Norma Jean. The band has had gold albums, a Grammy nomination, and continues to play to fervent audiences throughout North and South Americas, Europe, Australia and Japan. They have contributed to a number of movie soundtracks, including The Crow, Johnny Mnemonic, Saw 3, and Underworld.



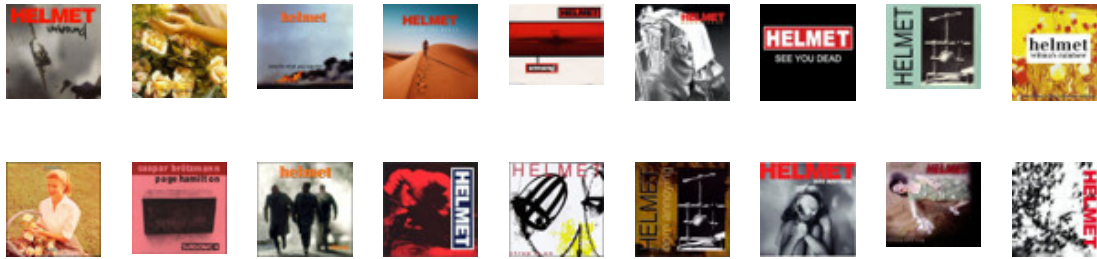
Page has worked with many prestigious artists, including a stint as lead guitarist for David Bowie, deputizing David Torn as his own replacement.

Page has done extensive soundtrack work, including Heat, S.W.A.T., Catwoman, and The Good Thief working with Bono and The Edge. He continues to perform live in orchestral settings as well – notably, performing the score from the film The Tempest with the Beethoven Academy Orchestra in Poland, and serving as soloist/guitarist in The Brit Orchestra's all-Bernstein festival in his home town of Medford, Oregon. He has studied jazz guitar extensively, and has performed with his own ensemble The Jazz Wanabees and with M'lumbo in many live jazz settings.



Page recently completed celebrating 30 years of his band Helmet by playing halls in 30 U.S. cities, having just completed the same in 30 European cities.

Helmet and Page Hamilton – Releases to Date



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