

# M'LUMBO

AND

## JANE IRA BLOOM

with Special Guest **PAGE HAMILTON**



**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

# Outer Space Mystery Romance Adventure

(Spring 2023)

M'lumbo is proud to announce the completion of its latest album, ***Outer Space Mystery Romance Adventure***. Recorded during the pandemic, with everyone working remotely in home studios, this double disc collection may be M'lumbo's most ambitious effort yet. Post- Jazz fusion that leads to exciting new worlds and possibilities for contemporary music.

The culmination of over a decade worth of live collaborations with Grammy- winning Jane Ira Bloom, 12 time winner of Downbeat Critics Poll for soprano saxophone and Helmet leader Page Hamilton, who is also onboard the new album as special guest.

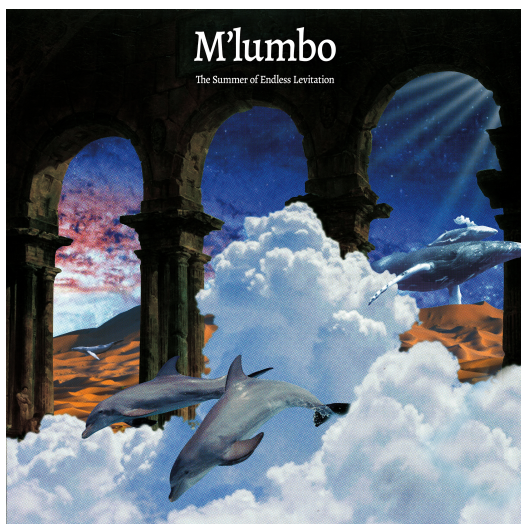
This double album is a compendium of Space Age Jazz, Electronica, Rock and exotica, two and a half hours of extraordinary musicianship and a pinnacle of collective empathy and reaction.



## The Summer of Endless Levitation

(Hell Yeah! Records, 2023)

Three members of the legendary New York underground Jazz/Electronic band M'lumbo did a regimen of Shamanic Travelling at the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic in New



York City. These experiences led them to quickly and spontaneously compose/perform a suite of pieces informed both by a desire to create a kind of folk music evoking painter/sculptor Jean (Hans) Arp's 'biomorphic' works [shapes that evoke natural lifeforms without depicting any specifically, of which they all shared occasional visions] and the feelings of isolation and indefinite exile yet to come in their urban environment. Compared to the works they have done as part of the larger band M'lumbo, this was to be a more modest, naive affair.

This album is a vehicle for the renewal of feeling, using only a few instruments [acoustic and electric guitar, keyboard, flute, small percussion, kalimba and clarinet] and locating a sense of both the deep sadness and uplifting powers of reverie.



# Celestial Mechanics (Ropeadope Records, 2021)

This album is 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.

## **Celestial Mechanics** review

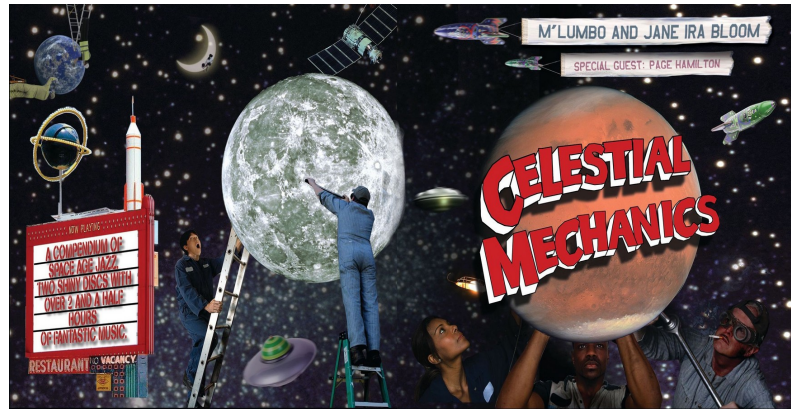
*M'Lumbo and Bloom share a general emphasis on space with Sun Ra. In some ways, however, they can be seen as approaching the unknown from an opposite perspective. While Sun Ra was an outsider visiting earth, one senses this band is instead exploring our continued spreading of radio waves through space. 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. 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 Shepherd, excerpted from *Traveling the Spaceways: Sun Ra Arkestra's Swirling and M'Lumbo and Jane Ira Bloom's Celestial Mechanics* (<https://postgenre.org/sun-ra-legacy>, Post Genre Music – Beyond Category)



# Fairytale Aliens (Ropeadope Records, 2020)

## Reviews

**GappleGate Guitar and Bass Blog, [M'lumbo and Page Hamilton, Fairytale Aliens](#)**

*A new M'lumbo album to me is an event, since their wall-of-sound Futurist Psychedelia is not quite like anything else out there, truly. Now we have a latest one, teaming up with Helmet guitarist Page Hamilton. Fairytale Aliens (Ropeadope) brings together Page on guitar with core M'lumbo men Robert Jordan Ray Flatow on keyboards, "suitcase symphonetta," "ectoplasmic radio," bass, electronic and acoustic percussion, voice, harmonica, and production-producer; then there is Paul-Alexandre Meurens on tenor sax, electronic and acoustic percussion, "cytoplasmic cheese synthesizer," assistant producer, flute, bass clarinet, bass, voice and shoes. They are joined at times by other friends but in the main it is the threesome who are responsible for the sprawling organic-electronic sympho-voltage.*



*It all works resoundingly well, with Hamilton's guitar a key element on "Sleepwalk," "Strawberry" and "You Really Got Me" as typically excellent examples. The totality of it all gives us a kind of psychedelic epic, a vintage dream of the future looked back upon and made most poetic.*

*And so it is certainly one of M'lumbo's best outings, moving and making total sonic sense for a kind of post-Sgt Pepper, post-Cagean, post-'60s Avant Rock studio presence into a future and so realizing the promise of the past. One must meet the music half-way because it is a complex sonic thing. If you do I think you will find it as enthralling as I do. Do not let this one slip by. Do not miss it.*

— Grego Applegate Edwards

**mxdown.com, [Helmet's Page Hamilton and Jazz Group M'lumbo Team Up for New Record Fairytale Aliens](#)**



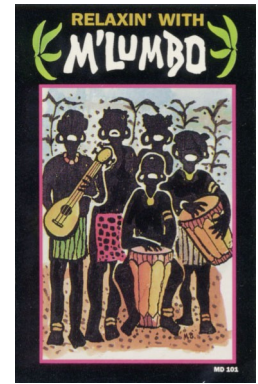
*Fresh off Helmet's 30th-year-anniversary tour [in Dec 2019], frontman Page Hamilton announced a highly-anticipated musical project which will be released in the following year. ... Hamilton will feature on the new M'lumbo album Fairytale Aliens, which is set to release on March 20th, 2020 via Ropeadope Records.*

*... The off-the-wall jazz group pushes the boundaries of rock, electronic, psychedelic, jazz and more. At ... its foundation, the musical group was dedicated to run[ning] away from creating music for commercial use, and then gradually grew into a collective ..., including frequent collaborators Hamilton, Jane Ira Bloom and Gary Lucas.*

— Miranda ZY. Wong



# M'LUMBO



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. M'lumbo quickly grew to an eight-piece band of multi-instrumentalists. 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.

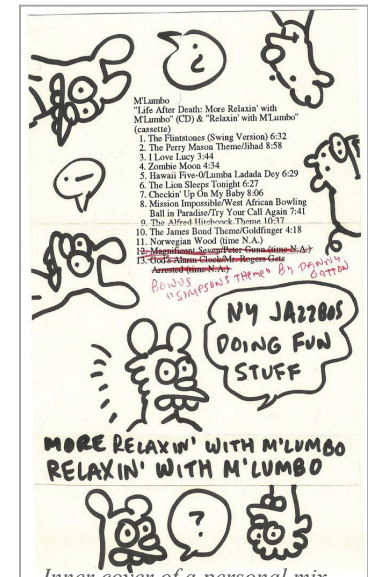
They have since been featured on over 300 public, college and progressive radio stations worldwide, including syndicated shows featuring their music. They and their multimedia crew have done commercials, films and work for MTV, MTV 2, Chrysler, Mini Cooper, and Hyundai; and have drawn countless enraptured 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 been combining forces with guitarist and now member **Page Hamilton**, the “six-string virtuoso” (Time Out New York) who founded and leads the wildly influential and Grammy-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 paeon to retro-futurism. ... These folks are into something.*

— Gapplegate Music Review



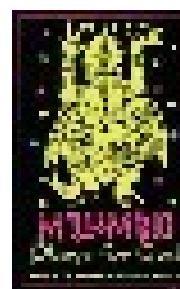
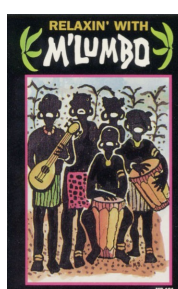
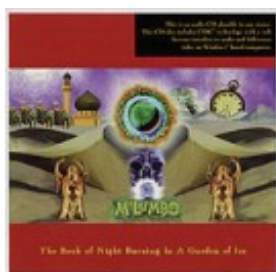
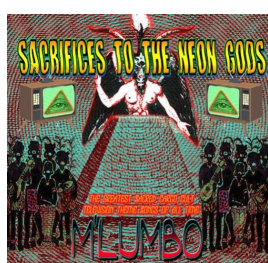
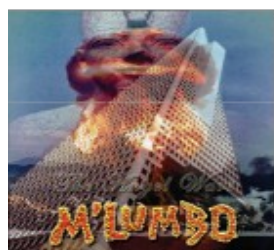
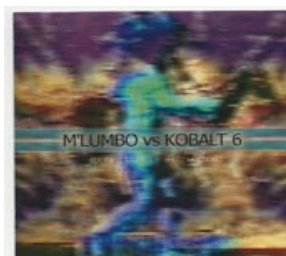
*If you've ever seen the painting of Jean-Michel Basquiat and other neo-expressionists you know what my mind sees when I'm listening to M'Lumbo. Some familiar images that are surrounded by washes of color in different intensities, patterns, and combinations. This should probably be filed under jazz but 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

# Previous M'lumbo Releases



## Members of M'lumbo

### *Present*

Rob Flatow, Rob "M'botto" Ray  
 Brian O'Neill  
 Paul Alexandre Meurens  
 Vincent Veloso  
 Cecil Young  
 Jaz Sawyer  
 Maureen O'Connor  
 Dehran Duckworth  
 Jarek Szczyglak

### *Past*

"Zombie" Ron Boggs  
 Josh Ferrazzano  
 Matt Bass  
 Kurt Leege  
 Eduardo Guedes  
 John DiMaggio  
 Dylan Wallace  
 Guy Sherman (Guy "Voices" Morocco)  
 Mark "King Funny" Giammanco  
 Mark "Jesus" Sklawer  
 Tony "Mahatma Coat" Fortuna



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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*, and was nominated in the same category in 2022.

An twelve-time winner of the Downbeat International Critics Poll for soprano saxophone, and multi-time winner of the Jazz Journalists Award for soprano sax of the year, 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 20 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 (for the twelfth consecutive time!) and the Jazz Journalists Association Award for best Soprano Saxophonist (2022). Jane was 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, and appearances on four of M'lumbo's ground-breaking albums, culminating in the forthcoming double album, *Outer Space Mystery Romance Adventure* / M'lumbo and Jane Ira Bloom.

## Jane Ira Bloom releases



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[facebook.com/JaneIraBloom](https://facebook.com/JaneIraBloom)  
[open.spotify.com/artist/7yTM7wAwwfJvt0UsLoZXrq](https://open.spotify.com/artist/7yTM7wAwwfJvt0UsLoZXrq)

**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

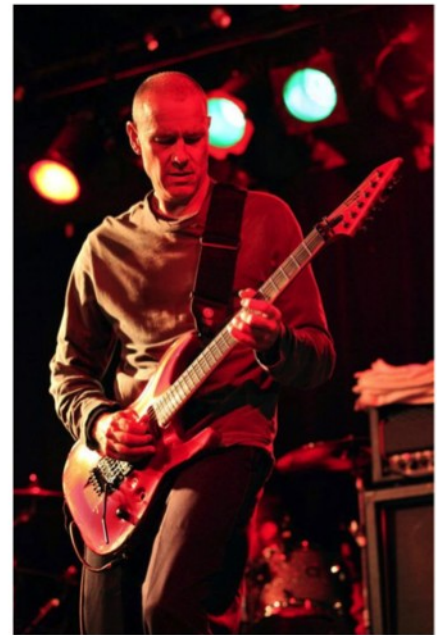
whom

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.

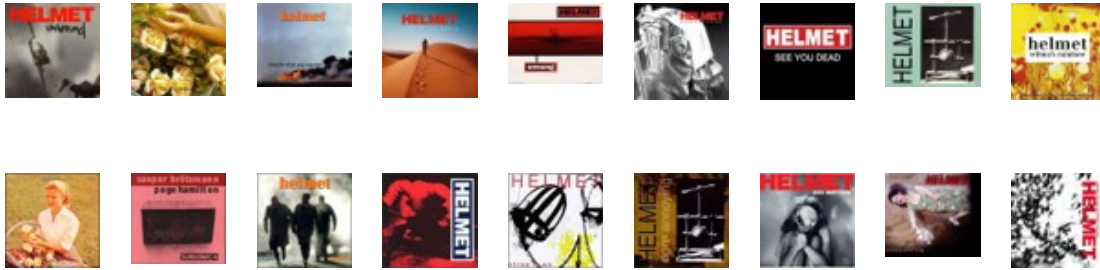
Page has done extensive soundtrack work, including *Heat*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Catwoman*, and *The Good Thief* working with Bono and The Edge. He continues to perform live in orchestral settings as well – notably, performing the score from the film *The Tempest* with the Beethoven Academy Orchestra in Poland, 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.

In 2019, Page celebrated 30 years of his band Helmet by playing halls in 30 U.S. cities, having just completed the same in 30 European cities. By Feb 2023 Helmet had just finished touring Latin and Central America, and will return to Australia in April 2023.





# Helmet and Page Hamilton releases



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