

Town Hall  
Seattle  
Presents

# GLOBAL

# RHYTHMS

2022  
2023

The Future of Global Music



Town Hall Seattle, in association with SAMA: Seattle Sacred Music & Art, presents

## Global Rhythms

### Kultur Shock

February 2, 2022, 7:30pm in The Great Hall  
Curated by Jon Kertzer



Media Sponsor



## Program Notes

Seattle's own Kultur Shock was founded by vocalist Gino Yevdjovich and a ragtag of immigrant Balkan musicians in 1996. Ten records and over 1,000 shows later, the band has become the gold standard for Balkan music infused by punk metal. The band recently got back on the post pandemic touring path with a festival and club tour in Europe in 2022 and is gearing up to release a vinyl version of their newest record, D.R.E.A.M., on Jello Biafra's iconic Alternative Tentacles label.

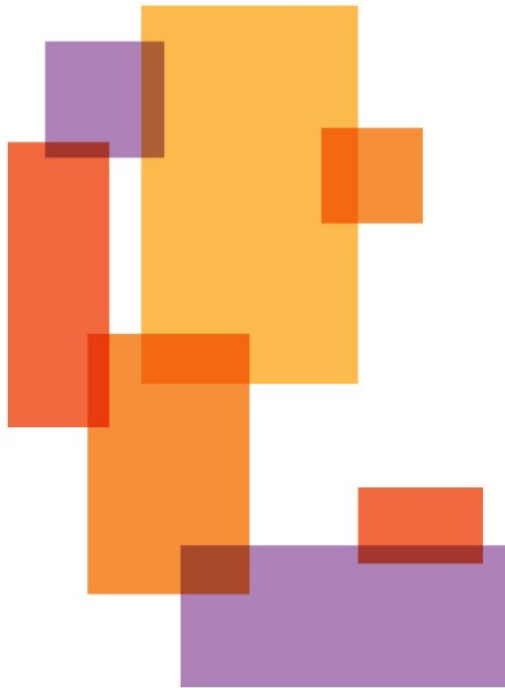
Kultur Shock is hugely influential to a whole genre of rock music that combines experimentalism with heart-pounding punk rock. With sounds reminiscent of Gogol Bordello, System of a Down, Dubioza Kolektiv, Manu Chao, The Pogues, and Gang of Four, Kultur Shock continues to bend the rules and mix international sounds full of energy, irreverence, and lyricism in an unmistakable signature sound of their own.

As part of the Global Rhythms series at Town Hall, Kultur Shock has prepared a unique "unplugged" set, creating an exciting new subgenre in popular music that they lovingly refer to as "acoustic punk metal."

## Set List\*

Duna  
Mastika  
Zumbul  
Blaguno Dejce  
Horse Thief  
God Is Busy, May I Help You  
Moj Dilbere  
Tutti Frutti  
Nadjija  
Country Mohammed  
Racist Song  
Guja  
Big Old Sun  
Snijeg  
Tomorrow is A Better Day  
Zora

*\*Set list may vary from the order listed*



## Performers

### **Srdjan Gino Yevdjevič**

*vocals, trumpet, percussion*

Born in Sarajevo in 1961, Gino was a recording artist on multiple different projects in the 1970s and 80s, including authoring three albums by Gino Banana (1986, 1988, 1990) and composing for Sarajevo National Theater and multiple theatres in ex-Yugoslavia. During the war in Sarajevo in 1992, Gino co-arranged, co-directed, and performed in HAIR, the musical.

After the war, while collaborating with world and U.S. musicians, Gino moved to Seattle and co-wrote the musical *Sarajevo Behind God's Back* in 1995. He also founded the multi-ethnic group Kultur Shock, which brings Balkan, heavy metal, and punk rock together, "playing every song like it is the last one." Kultur Shock has recorded ten albums and played over 1,000 shows all around the world.

Gino has been musical director and composer for Freehold Theater since 2002 and a guest artist/teacher at Cornish College of the Arts since 1996. Among many other projects, Gino has been a theater director and instructor for the Sound Health Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities department and is an advocate/counselor for their crisis stabilization team.

### **Guy M. Davis**

*bass, banjo, vocals*

Born in 1968, Guy Davis spent his first eighteen years living in and influenced by the music of San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. He fell in love with hard rock and song writing in 5th grade, but it was the electric bass that he discovered as an 18-year-old that

brought him joy. After high school in Jakarta, he moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington for as long as it took to start a band named Sage in 1990. While touring frequently in the 90's, he missed having an acoustic instrument to play; but when a gorgeous hundred-year-old banjo fell off a wall into his arms, it became one of his passions.

Today, Davis's musical passions are bass, banjo, performing live, writing, singing, and recording great music. He's been a member of Kultur Shock since 2008.

### **Amy Denio**

*saxophone, clarinet, guitar, bass, vocals*

Amy Denio is a multi-instrumentalist and singer, improviser, composer, traveler, engineer and producer. She has been Gino's recording engineer for Kultur Shock demos since 2000. Amy and Gino collaborated on *The Light*, an opera about Nikola Tesla — the first act premiered in 2017 at On the Boards with a cast of 30 actors and musicians.

Denio has received many grants and commissions to compose for modern dance, film and theater, multi-media performances, and television. Since founding Spoot Music in 1990 (her record label, publishing company, and recording studio) she has created and published 600+ compositions and has collaborated with artists from all over the world, including Kultur Shock, Lao Tse and the Entropics, Tone Dogs, The (ec) Nudes, Pale Nudes, FoMoFlo, The Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet, Ama Trio, and accordion quartet Hell's Bellows.

Earshot Jazz inducted her into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame in 2015. She is putting the final

touches on *Applause for the Bridge*, a book of her travel stories to be published in Italian and English.

### **Eleni Govetas**

*violin, saxophone, oud, vocals*

Eleni Govetas grew up immersed in the Greek and Balkan music of her father, clarinetist Christos Govetas. From a young age, it was clear that she had a passion to carry her family's musical tradition. She is a talented multi-instrumentalist, playing and performing saxophone, violin, zourna, percussion, guitar, and bass, both with her family band, Dróméno and her new group, performing her own compositions. She has had the great privilege to study traditional music at the feet of master musicians like Christos Karakostas, Džambo Agušev, and many others. Eleni has also taught music camps with the East European Folklife Center for the past five years.

### **Val Kiossovski**

*guitar, bouzouki, vocals*

Val Kiossovski was born and grew up in Bulgaria in the second half of the 20th century. In Bulgaria, Val started a progressive rock band called Orion — part of a wave of up-and-coming bands in the late 80s. He immigrated for political reasons in 1990, and Seattle has been his home since 1991.

Val joined Kultur Shock in 2000 and has played every show, been on every tour, and been part of every record made since then. He says, "They call it being a veteran, and I have both the valor and the wounds to show. I like what we do."

### **Chris Stromquist**

*drums, percussion, vocals*

Chris Stromquist grew up in the midwestern United States. The child of a musical family, he played piano, viola, drums, guitar, and sang in choirs from an early age. During college at Macalester in St. Paul, Minnesota he played classical percussion, West African drumming, jazz, and rock in the Minneapolis scene. In 1994, he traveled throughout Ghana to study traditional percussion techniques.

After graduating college with a degree in biology, he lived and worked in Bolivia as a field biologist for several years before relocating to Seattle in 1997. He became obsessed with Cuban and Brazilian percussion and studied traditional drumming in Havana and Rio de Janeiro. Chris became the drummer of Kultur Shock in 2002. In 2007 he moved to New York City, where he plays drums, bass, and guitar in several bands; most notably the Balkan brass band Slavic Soul Party!

## **Upcoming Global Rhythms Concerts**



### **Aynur**

*With an opening performance by Dróméno*

4/27 at 7:30pm



**Gordon Grdina's  
The Marrow,  
featuring  
Fathieh Honari**

6/2 at 7:30pm

Visit [thsea.org/global-rhythms](https://thsea.org/global-rhythms) for tickets