

Andy Milne & Dapp Theory • Bio Release

***"The idea behind Dapp Theory is to create complete musical compositions that groove as hard as they express melodic and poetic lyricism."*— Andy Milne**



About Dapp Theory

- Dapp Theory is a Juno Award winning quintet that intersects the cross roads between lyrical jazz piano, funkified polyrhythmic exploration, and spoken word poeticism. Leader, pianist/composer Andy Milne has been a dynamic voice on the New York scene, leading diverse projects for more than 25 years. He formed the band in 1998 as a vehicle to "tell passionate stories, promote peace and inspire collective responsibility towards uplifting the human spiritual condition." Dapp Theory seamlessly navigates the lines between jazz, heavy metal, hip-hop, Appalachian folk and classical music. They have built a loyal following, performing concerts, clubs and festivals throughout North America, Europe, and Argentina, including appearances at The Montreux Jazz Festival, The Vancouver Jazz Festival and The Charlie Parker Jazz Festival. With Dapp Theory, Milne combines the talents of percussive poet **John Moon**, saxophonist **Aaron Kruziki**, bassist **Chris Tordini** and drummer **Kenny Grohowski**, helping to re-draw and extend the boundaries of jazz.

The band's 2018 Sunnyside Records release, *The Seasons of Being*, praised by **PopMatters.com** as "a daring, gorgeous achievement." Awarded the 2019 **Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year:Group**, it features Dapp Theory plus five distinguished guest improvisers. Commissioned by Chamber Music America, it premiered in 2015 at Millersville University and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The music explores the body, spirit and mind on music, channeling the diagnostic principles of homeopathic healing to captivate the emotional characterization of each improvising musician. *The Seasons of Being* follows the dynamic 2014 release *Forward in all Directions*, produced by multi-Grammy winner Jimmy Haslip. **Jazziz Magazine** describes it as "an album that brims with both emphatic and implied elements. *Forward, yes, but never simply forward in a neat, linear fashion.*" The band's discography also includes the 2008 release, *Layers of Chance* and the critically acclaimed 2003 Concord Records release, *Y'all Just Don't Know*, which included an ambitious collaboration with folk-rock icon **Bruce Cockburn**.

Musician Bios

- Pianist/keyboardist **Andy Milne** recorded and toured throughout the world with Ravi Coltrane, Ralph Alessi, Carlos Ward and Carla Cook, and has collaborated with a range of artists including Andrew Cyrille, Sekou Sundiata, Avery Brooks, Bruce Cockburn, Fred Hersch, Ben Monder, Dianne Reeves, Jen Shyu, Tyshawn Sorey and Jamie Baum. During the 1990s, Milne was at the center of the M-BASE Collective as a core member of saxophonist Steve Coleman's bands, as well as performing with Cassandra Wilson and Greg Osby. Milne composed and produced the scores for seven documentary films by acclaimed director William Shatner and has released nine recordings as a leader or co-leader.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and commissions, including the prestigious Civitella Fellowship. A fearless versatile explorer, Milne collaborates with dancers, visual artists, poets and musicians spanning jazz, classical, pop, folk, and world music. In addition to his multiple projects, Milne is a sought-after educator, serving as an assistant professor of music at The University of Michigan and the Assistant-Director at The School for Improvisational Music. Milne draws inspiration from politics, philosophy, homeopathy, comedy, and science fiction, with musical influences that bridge Thelonious Monk, Art Tatum, Herbie Nichols, Bela Bartok, Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder.

- Multi-reedman **Aaron Kruziki** is an improvising chamber musician, crossing between the musical worlds of Olivier Messiaen and Ornette Coleman, equal parts written and improvised. Kruziki switches effortlessly between bass clarinet, soprano saxophone, clarinet, alto saxophone and duduk. Kruziki has been based in Astoria, NY since 2009 after receiving a master's degree from New England Conservatory. He splits his time working for Steinway & Sons and leading the experimental electro-acoustic trio Self-Imposed Exile as well as the Bowie-inspired rock group Education Reform. Kruziki has toured throughout North Africa with violinist Armenuhi Kehkeyan, as well as throughout Europe and Brazil. He moves fluidly between woodwinds, keyboards and vocals, performing in genres ranging from avante-pop, rock Armenian Folk and jazz.
- Vocalist/percussive poet/MC **John Moon** uses sound and visuals to change the way people interpret what they hear. Moon comes from the hip-hop tradition of emceeing, but is equally inspired by Amiri Baraka, Eric Dolphy, Jean Michel Basquiat, Salvador Dali and Ornette Coleman. He spits rhymes of collage; half painter, half poet. A graduate of DC's Duke Ellington High School for the Arts, Moon has shared his experiments with sound in performance with the Free Style Union, Amphibians Collective and the Avant-God Vi_lence. He regards the "*current state of despair in the world*" as his ultimate inspiration for creating beauty in the world.

- **Chris Tordini** is an in-demand bassist on New York’s jazz and experimental music scenes. He has toured and recorded with Dapp Theory for over a decade, and has also played in bands led by renowned artists such as Greg Osby and Jeremy Pelt. Tordini plays often with drummer Ari Hoenig, Becca Stevens Band, and in projects led by Tyshawn Sorey and Michael Dessen. Since graduating from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Tordini has performed and recorded with prominent bandleaders such as Steve Lehman, Theo Bleckmann, Billy Hart, Okkyung Lee, Tigran Hamasyan, Erik Friedlander, Jo-Yu Chen, Mike Pinto, Logan Richardson, Andrew D'Angelo, Jim Black, Chris Speed, and John Hollenbeck.
- Drummer **Kenny Grohowski** grew up in a musical household and has been performing professionally since the age of 14. Based in Brooklyn, he was raised in Miami and studied at the New World School of The Arts before transitioning to The New School For Jazz & Contemporary Music where he graduated with a BFA in Jazz Performance. His rich musical background is demonstrated through his growing list of collaborators, including Brand X, John Zorn, Lonnie Plaxico, Rez Abbasi, Imperial Triumphant, Felix Pastorius, Secret Chiefs 3, John Medeski, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Jorge Sylvester, and many others, ranging from Metal to Classical, Jazz to Afro Caribbean, and beyond. He performed during the 2007 Latin Grammy Awards with the award-winning group RBD and currently tours and records with Shanir Blumenkranz ABRAXAS, featuring the music of John Zorn. Grohowski is currently completing a solo CD, blending influences ranging from Weather Report, Allan Holdsworth, Meshuggah, Miles Davis, and Gonzalo Rubalcaba.

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