

## David Bindman Sextet

'Jazz is at the forefront of the cultural renewal taking place in Brooklyn, and saxophonist David Bindman has been a quiet but leading force in that movement....' – Karl Ackerman, All About Jazz

'...a new forceful strain of jazz.' – Mike Shanley, Shanley on Music

'Such diverse and disparate musical elements contribute to a profound sonic geometry, a big picture of sorts built on multiple conversations and varying perspectives.' – Ed Enright, DownBeat

**David Bindman**, tenor and soprano saxophones/composer, **Wes Brown**, contrabass, **royal hartigan**, drums, **Art Hirahara**, piano, **Frank London**, trumpet and flugelhorn, **Reut Regev**, trombone

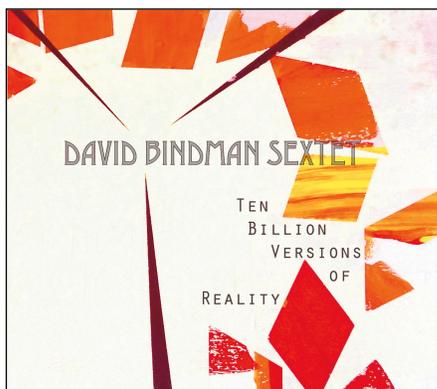


photo by Sara Pettinella

DAVID BINDMAN, saxophonist and composer, creates works that combine many elements: drawing on the motion of dance, exploring the complexity of melody and time unbound, and emphasizing improvisation at the core. His new works, inspired by journeys of discovery and transformation and by sights and sounds close to home, merge old and new musical forms and incorporate rhythmic cycles and modalities from West Africa, India, and around the globe. David co-lead the Brooklyn Sax Quartet with Fred Ho for a decade. In 2012 he released his sextet's debut double CD *Sunset Park Polyphony*, to wide praise by critics. Bindman seeks to create work that offers, in any way possible, artistic alternatives to the profit-driven imperatives that imperil life, that deny justice, and that go against the human spirit and the natural world. He lives in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

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Audio: <http://www.davidbindman.com/sounds.html>  
Video: <http://www.davidbindman.com/video.html>  
Stage plot/tech requirements:  
<http://www.davidbindman.com/STAGE%20PLOT-Bindman%20ens.pdf>

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Wes Brown, royal hartigan, and Bindman met in 1981 and have played together in numerous settings since. As Blood Drum Spirit, under hartigan's leadership, joined by pianist Art Hirahara, they have performed around the world. They are featured in the upcoming film *We Are One, Blood Drum Spirit*, directed by Sara Pettinella, which documents their collaborations with Ghanaian master artists. In 2017 they toured Ghana for a second time, sponsored by the US State Department. Bindman formed the sextet in 2008; Reut Regev and Frank London joined the group in 2010. The sextet has performed community concerts in Brooklyn, toured New England, conducted educational residencies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and collaborated with erhu player/composer Jing Wang and animation artists Harvey Goldman and Malin Abrahamsson. The sextet's newest CD, *Ten Billion Versions of Reality* (2017), follows Bindman's five recordings as a leader or co-leader, including the Brooklyn Sax Quartet's *The Way of the Saxophone* (Innova) and *Far Side of Here* (Omnitone).

## Bios

**David Bindman** is a saxophonist, composer, and bandleader living in Brooklyn, NY. He has performed and recorded with Wadada Leo Smith, Talking Drums, Kevin Norton, Ehran Elisha, Anthony Braxton, Adam Lane, and many others. He collaborated with poet Tyrone Henderson and visual artist Quimetta Perle on the multi-media pieces *The Madman* and *Strawman Dance*, and co-led the Brooklyn Sax Quartet with Fred Ho for a decade, recording *The Way of the Saxophone* (Innova, 2001) and *Far Side of Here* (Omnitone, 2005). In 2012 David released his ensemble's double CD *Sunset Park Polyphony*. He is currently collaborating with visual artist Malin Abrahamsson on "The Dream Space Continuum," a work involving music and abstract animation.

**Wes Brown**, contrabass, has performed and toured with a wide range of musical personalities. He plays acoustic and electric bass, keyboard, percussion and African flute. Wes has appeared on numerous recordings, has toured the world with legendary pianist Earl "Fatha" Hines, and has performed with Ed Blackwell, Bill Barron, and many other jazz, African, and reggae artists.

**royal hartigan** is a tap dancer, pianist, and percussionist who has studied and performed the musics of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. He has performed on over 50 CDs and written three books with CD/DVD: *West African Rhythms for Drumset*, *Dancin' On The Time*, and *West African Ewe Rhythms for Drumset*. He has been a J. William Fulbright scholar through the U.S. State Department, conducting research on traditional Philippine music in 2006, and Ghana in 2014-15. royal's quartet *Blood Drum Spirit* has performed and given workshops in China, the Philippines, and Ghana. The group's work in Ghana collaborating with master artists is the subject of the soon-to-be released film *We Are One*, directed by Sara Pettinella.

**Art Hirahara** is a jazz pianist/composer, originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, now residing in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in Electronic and Computer Music from the Oberlin College Conservatory in Oberlin, OH, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in jazz piano performance at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA. Art has served as a "Jazz Ambassador" on a seven-week tour of the Middle East, where he performed, lectured and conducted workshops with local musicians. He has performed with Akira Tana and Rufus Reid, among many others, and leads his ensemble.

**Frank London**, trumpeter/composer, is a member of the Klezmatics and Hasidic New Wave, and has performed and recorded with John Zorn, LL Cool J, Mel Torme, Lester Bowie's *Brass Fantasy*, LaMonte Young, *They Might Be Giants*, David Byrne and many others. His own recordings include *Invocations* (cantorial music) and Frank London's *Klezmer Brass Allstars' Di Shikere Kapelye*. He has composed for film and theater and taught Jewish music in Canada, Crimea and the Catskills. He has been featured on HBO's *Sex And The City*, and was a co-founder of *Les Miserables Brass Band* and the *Klezmer Conservatory Band*.

**Reut Regev**, trombonist, composer and bandleader, born and raised in Israel, has been living and creating music in NYC for over a decade. Finding her own voice in various styles, including Jazz, Latin, Klezmer, Rock, Blues and more, Reut records and tours with some of the finest musicians in their respective fields, including Anthony Braxton, Frank London, Butch Morris, Firewater, Elliott Sharp, Metropolitan Klezmer, Hazmat Modine and many more. Reut leads *R\*time*, an internationally acclaimed band featured in festivals around the world. *R\*time's* recent Enja release "Exploring the Vibe" has been getting fantastic response worldwide.

## Press quotes:

'It takes a wealth of ideas and inspiration to fill two CDs and saxophonist David Bindman justifies his large-canvas approach at every step... The orchestration, for three horns, piano, bass and drums, is boundlessly colorful and indeed polyphonic.' - DAVID R. ADLER, New York City Jazz Record

'The self-released Sunset Park Polyphony is saxophonist David Bindman's most ambitious recording to date...The sextet handles the challenges of compositions such as "Shape One," which contains multiple layers of time, without breaking a sweat. Thus, the music, even at its knottiest, carries a comfortable, lived-in quality. And shifting rhythmic foundations don't trip them up as soloists, either...Bindman's beautifully crafted and executed major statement should be a harbinger of things to come.' -- ED HAZELL - Jazziz Summer 2012 print edition

'This self-released two-CD sextet album is his masterpiece so far...Bindman's compositions (he wrote all the tracks) are consistently compelling; they're melodic and rhythmic enough to be easily accessible, but complex enough and profound enough to reward deep listening, with piquant harmonies from the horns and moments of refreshing counterpoint. The band's not star-filled by the standards of the average music fan, but NYC jazz aficionados will recognize enough names to realize how good it is...Whether in concert or on record -- ideally, both -- David Bindman is someone whose work you should become familiar with, because music this good needs to be shared.' - STEVE HOLTJE, Culture Catch

'The strong path developed by saxophonist and composer David Bindman, while centered in the new current of free improvisation, is marked by multiple artistic elements, which include archaic and cutting edge musical forms, rhythmic cycles and modalities from West Africa, India and other ethnic traditions of complex melodic explorations that are rarely heard; and a search for the integration of musically cohesive planes into an aesthetic ideology able to represent diverse world circles, feelings, history, and cultural heritages based on a mimetic concept of classical aesthetics... David Bindman completes here a successful creative circle born of his curiosity to understand the world.' - SERGIO PICCIRILLI, El Intruso (translated from Spanish by Nestor Rodriguez)

'Don't expect "new-age" noodling from saxophonist/composer Bindman...Intelligent, multi-rhythmic, at turns lyrical or challenging but never dull, this aural experience is worth your attention.' - RICHARD KAMINS, Step Tempest

'Bindman does a fine job of setting up pieces where two or more lines are happening simultaneously...He assembles different sections of freer exploration yet there is a strong underlying thread that holds it together...[a] splendid sextet.' - BRUCE GALLANTER, Downtown Music Gallery

'Although the album might be considered an entry into the world music category, it's better to call it a new forceful strain of jazz.' - MIKE SHANLEY, Shanley on Music

'The David Bindman Ensemble, in their recent 2-CD opus Sunset Park Polyphony (self-released), follows in the footsteps of ensembles dedicated to modern jazz composition and adventurous improvisation. Like the ensembles of Henry Threadgill, Dave Holland, and Tim Byrne, this band's music has structured compositional elements interwoven with contemporary soloing that is not quite free in the sense of Ayler or Ornette, but neither is it tied into bop-lifting, according to the jazz detective I hired to investigate... the ensemble has much going for it...' -- GREGO APPLGATE EDWARDS, GappleGate Music Review

'Many of the arrangements create connective harmonies resulting from the wash of sonic colors that arises from counterpoint among three horns and three rhythm instruments. Concurrently the pieces use absolute textures or the suggestions of Karnatic and African sound-cycles to give added heft to their solos... an earnest CD from a mature artist...'-- KEN WAXMAN, Jazzword.com

'The results, as interpreted by this crack sextet, are never less than absorbing and challenging. As the music twists and turns, everyone gets their turn in the spotlight. The musicians rise to the occasion of Bindman's demanding multi-part compositions with passionate and consistently impressive solo work by all hands...Well worth hearing, again and again.' -- STUART KREMSKY, IAJRC (the quarterly magazine of the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors) Journal Vol. 45. No. 2 – June 2012