

# **Hebeloma's Abyssal Aria**

a post-existential musical score  
generated through a  
non-idiomatic improvisational creative process

**Hebeloma Crustuliniforme**  
written January 1, 2022—December 31, 2022  
Knoxville, Tennessee

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*Each of the three-hundred sixty-five passages in this book was written in its entirety to the accompaniment of a recording of a particular piece of music. The work is identified at the end of each passage. The process of “writing as listening” admits the embodied cognition in the music. Furthermore, as the American pianist Vijay Iyer has noted, “[M]usic can be viewed as a consequence of active listening...Placing the skillful listener in such an active role explodes the category of experiences that we call listening to music...”*

*An index of musicians appears at the end of the book, as do several other related indices.*

# Hebeloma's Abyssal Aria

2022

January.....	1
February.....	15
March.....	27
April.....	39
May.....	51
June.....	63
July .....	75
August.....	87
September .....	99
October .....	111
November .....	123
December.....	135
Afterword .....	147

# Afterword

We feel compelled to append to this score a peripherally-related, explanatory note on the various asynchronous processes present in *Hebeloma's Abyssal Aria*. As we perceive it, there are at least five time elements, in which the musical, literary, artistic and various interpretative actions of the *Abyssal Aria* take place.

- On one day, some times many decades in the past, one or more musicians played the music, to which each daily passage in the *Abyssal Aria* was written.
- The writing of a passage of the *Abyssal Aria* occurred on a second, different day.
- The artwork for the *Abyssal Aria* was created on a third day.
- The reading of the passages and viewing of the artwork in the *Abyssal Aria* occurred on fourth day, different for each visitor.
- On a fifth day, perhaps many decades in the future, the musical performance of the *Abyssal Aria* takes place.

Some of the processes in this cycle have already concluded, while others remain underway and still others have not yet begun. The notion that all these actions should have transpired on the same day is, of course, absurd and contrary to the fundamental manner in which human beings experience time.

written on June 1, 2022



## **Index of Accompanying Musicians**

- Abdelnour, Christine ..... 35  
Abdul-Malik, Ahmed ..... 85  
Abrams, Muhal Richard .. 4, 18, 30,  
  33, 35, 42, 54, 66, 78, 90, 93,  
  102, 114, 126  
Adachi, Tomomi ..... 44  
Adair, Robert ..... 129, 141  
Adams, Mark ..... 129, 141  
Adel, Lorraine ..... 129, 141  
Adler, Betsy ..... 129, 141  
Aebi, Irène ..... 29, 101, 113, 125  
Agnes, Kasper ..... 84  
Akiyoshi, Toshiko ..... 133  
AkLaff, Pheeroan ..... 101  
Alcorn, Susan ..... 46, 138  
Alessi, Ralph ..... 126  
Ali, Rashied ..... 24, 105, 120, 132  
Allbee, Liz ..... 127, 143  
Allen, Eddie ..... 18  
Allen, Geri ..... 117  
Allen, Napoleon ..... 144  
Altena, Maarten ..... 6  
Altenburger, Martine ..... 20  
Altman, Laura ..... 119  
Altschul, Barry ..... 21, 93, 105, 117  
Ameen, Ramsey ..... 142  
Anderson, Clifton ..... 54  
Anderson, Laurie ..... 61  
Annett, James ..... 77  
Arapis, Giannis ..... 84  
Armbrust, Kyle ..... 60  
Asmussen, Robert ..... 129, 141  
Avenel, Jean-Jacques ..... 89  
Baars, Ab ..... 55  
Badger, Julie ..... 129, 141  
Bagge, Tove ..... 145  
Bailey, Brian ..... 129, 141  
Bailey, Derek ..... 1, 15, 27, 39, 51,  
  63, 75, 87, 99, 111, 123, 135  
Baker, Thurman ..... 30  
Ballon, David ..... 129, 141  
Baltschun, Boris ..... 143  
Banké, Anders ..... 106  
Barber, Julien ..... 141  
Barefield, Spencer ..... 89, 125  
Barker, Michael ..... 6  
Barker, Thurman ..... 42, 47, 78  
Barlow, Naomi ..... 129, 141  
Baron, Joey ..... 5, 19, 31, 43, 55, 67,  
  79, 91, 103, 115  
Barron, Bill ..... 106  
Bartley, Larry ..... 31  
Bassey, Mark ..... 31  
Bauder, Matt ..... 37  
Baustian, Robert ..... 129, 141  
Bazelaire, Félicie ..... 49  
Becker, Sally ..... 129, 141  
Beins, Burkhard ..... 143  
Bell, David ..... 129, 141  
Bennardo, Maya ..... 66, 78  
Bennett, Dan ..... 37  
Bennink, Han ..... 6, 107, 125, 131  
Benson, Barry ..... 129, 141  
Beresford, Steve ..... 6  
Berger, Karl ..... 29, 93  
Bergman, Borah ..... 65  
Bergman, Elsa ..... 84, 120  
Berson, Saul ..... 95  
Besalduch, Ferrán ..... 118  
Besson, Airelle ..... 111  
Betsch, John ..... 89  
Bigoni, Francesco ..... 106, 130  
Binford, Sarah ..... 129, 141  
Binot, Loris ..... 58  
Bishop, Walter ..... 121  
Bixler, Judith ..... 129, 141  
Blackwell, Ed ..... 21, 33, 57, 93  
Blackwell, Kathy ..... 129, 141  
Blake, John ..... 90  
Blakely, Art ..... 121  
Blakey, Art ..... 12, 61  
Blaney, Paul ..... 95  
Blitz, Larissa ..... 129  
Bloom, Sarah ..... 129, 141  
Bluiett, Hamiet ..... 8, 141  
Bolling, Mary ..... 129, 141

- Bontrager, Nathan ..... 82  
Borden, Tyler J. .... 66, 78  
Bourdellon, Jérôme ..... 45  
Bourque, John ..... 129, 141  
Bowie, Lester ..... 41, 101  
Box, Steven ..... 129, 141  
Boyd, Nelson ..... 61  
Branovicki, Stanislav ..... 129, 141  
Braxton, Anthony..... 8, 21, 33, 46,  
  57, 69, 78, 81, 93, 105, 117,  
  123, 126, 129, 141  
Brazil, Joe..... 108  
Brenders, Kyle ..... 77  
Brennan, Patricia ..... 78  
Brenneis, Susan ..... 129, 141  
Brewer, Matt ..... 82  
Bridgewater, Cecil..... 54, 93  
Bridgewater, Ronald ..... 93  
Brieff, Frank..... 120  
Brookmeyer, Bob ..... 70  
Brooks, Monica ..... 119  
Brötzmann, Peter..... 68  
Brown, Clifford ..... 109  
Brown, Edwin C..... 120  
Brown, Maurice..... 120  
Brown, Ray ..... 120, 133  
Bruey, Jean-Pierre ..... 49  
Buck, Tony ..... 10, 59, 95, 107  
Buckner, Thomas ..... 3, 113, 125  
Buffington, Jim ..... 70  
Bultmann, Nils ..... 113  
Burn, Chris ..... 70  
Burr, Tony ..... 67  
Burrell, Dave ..... 69, 117  
Buster, B..... 56  
Butcher, John ..... 10, 70, 107, 127  
Butts, Jimmy ..... 132  
Bynum, Taylor Ho ..... 126  
Byrd, Donald ..... 72  
Caddy, Anthea..... 143  
Cahill, Sarah..... 95  
Cahn-Lipman, Kivie..... 60  
Caloia, Nicolas ..... 77  
Camp, William ..... 129, 141  
Campbell, Alan ..... 129, 141  
Campbell, Brian ..... 129, 141  
Canterbury, Jesse..... 32  
Caplan, Sam ..... 120  
Capparos, Olivier ..... 130  
Cappozzo, Jean-Luc ..... 49  
Carl, Rüdiger..... 64  
Carroll, Baikida ..... 7, 21, 30, 57  
Carrott, Bryan..... 20  
Carter, Daniel ..... 126, 138  
Carter, Kent..... 29, 101, 113, 123,  
  125  
Cartwright, George..... 83  
Cass, Kim.... 83, 95, 107, 119, 131,  
  143  
Cassiers, Lynn ..... 15, 27, 87, 99  
Cathala, Sylvain ..... 1  
Ceccaldi, Théo ..... 87, 99  
Ceccarelli, Isaiah ..... 77  
Cegarra, Antoine ..... 87, 99  
Cerra, Dave ..... 31  
Chambers, Paul .. 10, 36, 60, 61, 72  
Chancey, Vincent ..... 7, 21, 30  
Charles, Dennis ..... 17, 82, 94, 130  
Charles, Xavier..... 49  
Chemey, Theodore ..... 129, 141  
Chen, Audrey ..... 46  
Cherry, Don..... 8, 21, 33, 57, 93  
Chevillon, Bruno ..... 87, 99  
Choice, Damon Ra ..... 20  
Clark, Bill..... 95  
Clark, Charles..... 78  
Clarke, Selwart..... 141  
Clayton, Buck..... 144  
Clayton, Jay..... 4  
Cleaver, Gerald ... 20, 32, 126, 138  
Clotet, Amidea ..... 96  
Clutton, Rob ..... 77  
Cobb, Jimmy ..... 36, 60  
Cohavi, Anat ..... 143  
Cohen, Greg .. 5, 19, 31, 43, 55, 67,  
  79, 91, 103, 115, 127, 139  
Colbert, James..... 129, 141  
Coleman, Anthony ..... 127, 139  
Coleman, Denardo..... 117, 129  
Coleman, Ornette..... 8, 21, 33, 45,  
  57, 69, 81, 93, 105, 117, 129,  
  141

- Coleman, Steve.....7, 21  
Collier, Andrew .....129, 141  
Collins, John.....144  
Collins, Rudy.....106  
Collins, Shad .....144  
Colson, Adegoke Steve .....57  
Coltrane, Alice.....120, 132  
Coltrane, John....10, 24, 36, 48, 60,  
    72, 84, 85, 96, 108, 118, 120,  
    132, 144  
Cooke, Coat.....95  
Cooper, Diane.....129, 141  
Cooper, Jerome.....8  
Cooper, Lindsay .....35  
Cora, Tom.....6, 28, 83  
Cornell, Bradley .....129, 141  
Cortazzo, Jeff.....5, 67  
Costa, Eddie.....70  
Coudoux, Elisabeth .....82  
Courvoisier, Sylvie..11, 42, 67, 115  
Cram, Paul .....95  
Crispell, Marilyn ....4, 23, 124, 142  
Crump, Stephan .....42, 72  
Cuckson, Miranda .....60  
Cunningham, Chris.....20  
Curson, Ted .....70, 106  
Cyrille, Andrew .....30, 54, 90, 113  
Dafeldecker, Werner.....143  
Dara, Olu .....7, 21, 45  
Davidson, Derek .....129, 141  
Davidson, Michael.....77  
Davis, Anthony.....35, 45  
Davis, Art .....70  
Davis, Charles .....54, 94  
Davis, Miles.....121, 132  
Davis, Richard.....97, 138  
Davis, Vincent .....17  
de Arango, Bill .....144  
de Prato, Olivia.....66, 78  
de Vega, Mario .....143  
de Vries, Meindert .....34  
Deane, J. A. .....20  
Deeter, Scott .....32  
DeJohnette, Jack.....17, 29, 41, 53,  
    137  
Delbecq, Benoît .....15, 27  
Demetris, Susan.....129, 141  
Derome, Jean .....77  
Deych, Alex .....129  
Di Domenico, Giovanni.....39, 51  
di Donato, Jacques.....49  
Diehl, Aaron .....82  
Diesner, Dietmar .....6  
Dockter, Mike .....67  
Doctor, Jennifer .....129, 141  
Donaldson, Lou .....61  
Doneda, Michel .....34, 94  
Dorham, Kenny .....61, 118, 120  
Dorn, Jonathan.....93  
Dörner, Axel .....143  
Dorsey, Leon .....129, 141  
Douglas, Dave....5, 19, 31, 43, 55,  
    67, 79, 91, 103, 115, 127, 139  
Douglas, Tina .....23  
Douglass, Cynthia .....129, 141  
Drake, Hamid .....71, 118  
Drake, Steven .....129, 141  
Dresser, Mark .....127, 139  
Drew, Kenny .....10  
Driesen, David .....129, 141  
Drummond, Ray .....93  
Duboc, Benjamin .....49, 123  
Ducret, Marc .....15, 27  
Dumoulin, Jozef .....15, 27  
Dunn, Johnathan.....129, 141  
Dunston, Nick .....78  
Durachta, Jeffery .....129, 141  
Duthoit, Isabelle ...49, 94, 106, 118  
Dybbroe, Maria .....106, 121  
Dyrnes, Oda.....145  
Edwards, John .....76  
Ehrig, Joachim Heinz (Eroc) ...112,  
    136  
Ehrlich, Marty .....42, 54  
Ehrnrooth, Pete .....56  
El'Zabar, Kahil .....4, 81  
Ellerbee, Charlie .....45  
Elliott, Carol .....129, 141  
Elliott, Kathleen .....129, 141  
Elliott, Virginia.....129, 141  
Ellis, Herb.....133  
Emmanuel, Gordon.....78

- Engel, Jonas ..... 106  
Eppel, Ralph ..... 95  
Erb, Christoph ..... 131  
Etienne, Yvan ..... 34  
Evans, Gil ..... 70  
Evans, Peter ..... 30  
Ewart, Douglas ..... 35, 81  
Faddis, Jon ..... 93  
Fagaschinski, Kai ..... 143  
Favors, Malachi ..... 41, 66, 101  
Fay, Lori ..... 129, 141  
Feldman, Mark ..... 127, 138, 139  
Fell, Simon H. ..... 70  
Fenesz, Christian ..... 103  
Ferlet, Edouard ..... 111  
Fernández, Agustí ..... 54, 68, 112  
Ferreira, Ryan ..... 37  
Feuerwerker, Alison ..... 129, 141  
Few, Bobby ..... 17  
Fielder, Alvin ..... 41  
Finlayson, Jonathan ..... 90  
Fisher, Warren ..... 19  
Flanagan, Tommy ..... 36  
Fogg, David ..... 129, 141  
Fonda, Joe ..... 4, 142  
Fontaine, Geoff ..... 5  
Foon, Rebecca ..... 11, 37  
Formanek, Michael .. 5, 18, 54, 138  
Fowle, Shelley ..... 129, 141  
Fox, Greg ..... 37  
Franck, Hattie ..... 67  
Fraser, Nick ..... 77  
Freedman, Lori ..... 77  
Freeman, Stan ..... 120  
Friedlander, Erik ..... 127, 139  
Friedli, Dana ..... 20  
Frisell, Bill ..... 59, 71, 102  
Frith, Fred ..... 88  
Fujiwara, Tomas.. 5, 18, 54, 78, 126  
Fuller, Curtis ..... 10  
Gabis, Bernard ..... 129, 141  
Gaitan, Alberto ..... 22  
Galbraith, Barry ..... 70  
Gallagher, Mark ..... 129, 141  
Galland, Stéphane ..... 15, 27  
Garchik, Jacob ..... 78  
Gardner, John ..... 129, 141  
Garland, Red ..... 60, 72  
Garrett, Donald ..... 108  
Garrison, Jimmy ..... 24, 48, 57, 84,  
93, 96, 108, 120, 132, 144  
Garrison, Leonard ..... 129, 141  
Gelb, Philip ..... 32  
Gelman, Gregory ..... 129  
Gentile, Kate. .... 83, 95, 107, 119,  
131, 143  
Gerstein, Ben ..... 83, 95, 107, 131,  
143  
Ghee, Eugene ..... 18  
Gillespie, Dizzy ..... 120, 132  
Gilmore, David ..... 18  
Gilmore, Marcus ..... 72  
Gimpel, Bronislaw ..... 120  
Glasel, John ..... 70  
Glenn, Tyree ..... 144  
Gloor, Mathias ..... 92  
Goedhart, Johan ..... 9, 22  
Goldstein, Nathan ..... 141  
Golia, Vinny ..... 47, 95  
Goodwillow, Good ..... 129, 141  
Goodwin, Carolyn ..... 106  
Gordon, Frank ..... 54  
Gorter, Harjen ..... 107  
Gotwals, Thomas ..... 129, 141  
Grand, Maria ..... 18  
Graves, Lilyn ..... 129, 141  
Green, Urbie ..... 70  
Griffin, Dick ..... 54  
Grimal, Alexandra ..... 1, 15, 27, 39,  
51, 63, 75, 87, 99, 111, 123, 135  
Grimes, Henry ..... 70  
Grimes, Tiny ..... 132, 144  
Gross, Mark ..... 129, 141  
Gross, Murray ..... 129, 141  
Groth, Henriette ..... 106  
Guarnieri, Johnny ..... 144  
Guerrieri, Matt ..... 5  
Guest, John ..... 129, 141  
Guez, Kristof ..... 94  
Guhl, Andy ..... 56  
Gurofflgor Polisitsky, Alex ..... 129,  
141

- Gustafsson, Mats ..... 68, 91, 92  
Gutman, Lauri ..... 129, 141  
Guy, Barry ..... 68, 124  
Gysi, Wädi ..... 124  
Haden, Charlie ..... 8, 21, 57  
Haffner, Jonathon ..... 53  
Hagood, Kenny (Pancho) ..... 37  
Haig, Al ..... 120  
Haino, Keiji ..... 2, 16, 28, 40, 52, 64,  
    76, 88, 100, 112, 124, 136  
Hale, Audrey ..... 129, 141  
Halvorson, Mary ..... 5, 18, 30, 42,  
    43, 54, 66, 78, 79, 90, 102, 114,  
    126, 138  
Hammar, Thomas ..... 68, 80, 92, 104,  
    116, 128, 140  
Hammet-Vaughan, Kate ..... 95  
Harden, Wilbur ..... 60  
Harnik, Elisabeth ..... 139  
Harris, Craig ..... 7, 21, 57, 69  
Harrison, Michael ..... 129, 141  
Harrison, Steven ..... 129, 141  
Hart, Clyde ..... 132  
Harvey, Gregor ..... 32  
Hautzinger, Franz ..... 49, 118  
Hawkins, Andrew ..... 136  
Hayes, Louis ..... 72, 118  
Haynes, Roy ..... 85, 97, 121  
Hayward, Robin ..... 143  
Heard, J.C. ..... 133, 144  
Heath, Al ..... 72  
Heath, Percy ..... 121  
Heather, Steve ..... 143  
Hebert, John ..... 90  
Heenan, Chris ..... 143  
Hein, Nicola ..... 82  
Helary, Sylvaine ..... 87, 99  
Helias, Mark ..... 20  
Hellgren, My ..... 84  
Hemingway, Gerry ..... 131  
Hemmer, Lisa ..... 67  
Hemphill, Julius ..... 8, 141  
Henderson, Aaron ..... 129, 141  
Henderson, Joe ..... 97  
Henkel, Brad ..... 82  
Henneman, Ig ..... 55  
Henocq, Simon ..... 49  
Herzog, Constantin ..... 82  
Hicks, John ..... 33, 93  
Higgins, Billy ..... 7, 8, 21, 57, 94, 105  
Higgins, Patience ..... 54, 102  
Hijmans, Wiek ..... 6  
Hill, Andrew ..... 97, 138  
Hill, Jeffrey ..... 129, 141  
Hill, Pamela ..... 129, 141  
Hinton, Milt ..... 70, 144  
Hogstrand, Nicole ..... 145  
Hogstrand, Pauline ..... 145  
Hois, James ..... 129, 141  
Holland, Dave ..... 8, 21, 90, 93, 105,  
    117  
Hollander, Max ..... 120  
Holmlander, Per-Åke ..... 68  
Holt, Scott ..... 105  
Homburger, Maya ..... 68  
Honsinger, Tristan ..... 20  
Hopkins, Fred ..... 7, 20, 21, 54, 90  
Hostetler, David ..... 129, 141  
Houle, François ..... 116  
Houle, Julie ..... 77  
Hove, Carolyn ..... 129, 141  
Huhn, Leonhard ..... 82  
Hutcherson, Bobby ..... 138  
Hwan, Kim Dae ..... 44  
Hwang, Jason ..... 20  
Ibarra, Susie ..... 11, 79  
Iles, Nikki ..... 31  
Imai, Kazuo ..... 34  
Ingves, Karin ..... 84  
Irabagon, Jon ..... 83, 90, 95, 107, 131,  
    143  
Isadora, Alison ..... 6  
Ismaily, Shahzad ..... 37  
Israels, Chuck ..... 118  
Iyer, Vijay ..... 11, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72,  
    84, 90, 96, 108  
Izenzon, Dave ..... 69, 81, 141  
Jackson, Milt ..... 37  
Jackson, Shannon ..... 45, 142  
Jacobson, Tomo ..... 142  
Jaffe, Peter ..... 129, 141  
Jagd, Maria Martine ..... 145

- Jarman, Joseph ..... 81, 101  
Jauniaux, Catherine ..... 6  
Jeannin, Brice ..... 34  
Jeffers, Jack ..... 54, 93  
Jenkins, Leroy ..... 8, 30, 35, 47, 78  
Johnson, Celeste ..... 129, 141  
Johnson, Erik ..... 129, 141  
Johnson, J.J. ..... 61  
Johnson, Keg ..... 144  
Johnson, LaMont ..... 105  
Johnson, Oliver ... 29, 65, 101, 113, 125  
Johnson, Osie ..... 70  
Johnstone, Bruce ..... 93  
Jones, Brad ..... 18, 102  
Jones, Eileen ..... 129, 141  
Jones, Elvin ..... 24, 48, 84, 96, 108, 138, 144  
Jones, Hank ..... 120  
Jones, Jonah ..... 144  
Jones, Leonard ..... 4, 78, 126  
Jones, Philly Joe ..... 10  
Jones, Willie ..... 97  
Jordahl, Mikkel ..... 129, 141  
Jung, Fabian ..... 82  
Kaiser, Henry ..... 65, 115  
Kaiser, Mark ..... 129, 141  
Kalmanovitch, Tanya ..... 142  
Kaneko, Asuka ..... 44  
Kapp, Bobby ..... 102  
Karr, Joel ..... 129, 141  
Kaučič, Zlatko ..... 68  
Kavee, Elliot Humberto.. 11, 24, 96  
Kay, Howard ..... 120  
Kazez, Daniel ..... 129, 141  
Keeffe, Charlotte ..... 132  
Kell, Arthur ..... 129, 141  
Kelly, Kathy ..... 129, 141  
Kelly, Susan ..... 129, 141  
Kelly, Wynton ..... 36  
Kennedy, John ..... 129, 141  
Kerrebrock, Chris ..... 129, 141  
Kidambi, Amirtha ..... 18  
Kielholz, Mathias ..... 92  
King, Elisabeth ..... 32  
Kinney, Michelle ..... 20  
Kirchenbauer, James ..... 129, 141  
Kitzis, Gregor ..... 20  
Knowles, Elizabeth ..... 129, 141  
Koch, Hans ..... 20, 56  
Koketsu, Masayo ..... 72  
Kolkowski, Aleks ..... 76  
Konitz, Lee ..... 75  
Korsrud, John ..... 95  
Kory, Deanna ..... 129, 141  
Kosanovic, Ann ..... 129, 141  
Kowald, Peter ..... 6, 83, 89  
Krakauer, David ..... 127, 139  
Kubera, Joseph ..... 113  
Kubo, Tomomi ..... 118  
Kuenzel, Adam ..... 129, 141  
Kurzmann, Christof ..... 70  
Labreque, Robert Keckmary ..... 67  
Lacy, Steve.... 3, 17, 29, 41, 53, 65, 77, 89, 94, 101, 107, 113, 125, 130, 131, 137  
LaFaro, Scott ..... 33, 57  
Lake, Jahi ..... 108  
Lake, Oliver ..... 8, 141  
Land, Harold ..... 109  
Larsson, Andreas Hiroui ..... 84  
Larsson, Monika ..... 117  
Lashley, Lester ..... 41  
Laswell, Bill ..... 83  
Laubrock, Ingrid.. 6, 19, 31, 43, 55, 67, 79, 91, 103, 115  
Laubscher, Edgar ..... 20, 56  
Lautenbach, Giselle ..... 129, 141  
Lazar, Davy. 83, 95, 107, 119, 131, 143  
Lê, Quan Ninh.....8, 20, 22, 34, 46, 56, 58, 70, 82, 94  
Léandre, Joëlle .... 7, 20, 32, 35, 45, 47, 56, 68, 80, 92, 104, 116, 128, 140  
Lebrat, Soizic ..... 49, 106  
Lee, Peggy ..... 95  
Lehman, Steve ..... 24, 36, 108  
Leighton, Bernie ..... 120  
Lemêtre, Sylvain ..... 87, 99  
Lendrim, Nancy ..... 129, 141  
Lerner, Marilyn ..... 77

- Lev, Wendi ..... 67  
Leventha, Amy ..... 129, 141  
Lévy, Benjamin ..... 135  
Lewis, George.. 4, 9, 23, 30, 35, 45,  
    47, 59, 71, 83, 93, 95, 105, 107,  
    117, 119, 131, 143  
Lewis, John..... 121  
Lindal, Anna..... 84  
Lindberg John..... 17, 29, 41, 53  
Linde, Gregg..... 129, 141  
Lindström, Niclas ..... 84  
Lisle, Andrew ..... 132  
List, Garrett ..... 93  
Lo, Amanda ..... 11  
Loch, Dan ..... 67  
Lomask, Milt ..... 120  
Lomonaco, John ..... 129, 141  
Lovens, Paul ..... 35, 140  
Lowe, Bill ..... 54  
Lund, Anna ..... 120  
Lutek, Peter ..... 77  
Lykke, Alfred ..... 121  
Lyons, Jimmy ..... 58, 70, 142  
Lytle, Michael ..... 83  
Lytton, Paul ..... 124  
Mahanthappa, Rudresh ..... 84, 96  
Malik, Raphé ..... 142  
Maneri, Mat.... 20, 32, 83, 95, 107,  
    119, 131, 142, 143  
Maniscalco, Emanuele..... 94, 130  
Manne, Shelly..... 120  
Manoogian, Vartan ..... 113  
Mantilla, Ray ..... 42  
Mapes, Lynda ..... 129, 141  
Marchetti, Lionel ..... 130  
Marclay, Christian ..... 20, 83  
Markus, Naomi ..... 129, 141  
Maros, Ilona... 68, 80, 92, 104, 116,  
    128, 140  
Martel, Pierre-Yves ..... 48  
Marx, Andra ..... 129, 141  
Matlock, Adam ..... 6  
Matsuoka, Takashi..... 16  
Matt, Erik ..... 49  
Mattrey, Joanna ..... 108  
Maurice, Bruno..... 49  
Maxwell, Rogelio ..... 22  
May, Earl..... 72  
Mayas, Magda ... 10, 23, 35, 48, 59,  
    71, 83, 95, 107, 119, 131, 143  
Mazur, Rafal..... 68  
McCall, Steve ..... 45, 126  
McCauley, Matthew ..... 129, 141  
McClusky, Cameron..... 129, 141  
McDermott, Heen ..... 129, 141  
McEntire, John ..... 67  
McIntyre, Earl ..... 93  
McIntyre, Maurice ..... 41, 78  
McKibbon, Al..... 37  
McLean, Jackie..... 97, 105, 121  
McMillan, Wallace ..... 30  
McMurray, Grey..... 37  
McPhee, Joe ..... 46, 100  
McPherson, Eric ..... 108  
McTeague, Michele..... 129, 141  
Medeski, John ..... 127, 139  
Meister, Matthew..... 129  
Melford, Myra ..... 20  
Melford, Myra ..... 79  
Melnikoff, Harry ..... 120  
Mendoza, Ava ... 83, 107, 119, 131,  
    143  
Mengelberg, Misha..... 107, 131  
Merchant, Karim ..... 31  
Miller, Frank..... 120  
Miller, Mitch ..... 120  
Miller, Ron ..... 65  
Mills, Verlye..... 120  
Milne, Andy ..... 91  
Mingus, Charles ..... 97  
Minton, Phil ..... 128  
Mitchell, Matt..... 83, 95, 107, 119,  
    131, 143  
Mitchell, Nicole ..... 145  
Mitchell, Roscoe.... 3, 4, 17, 29, 35,  
    41, 53, 65, 77, 81, 89, 93, 101,  
    113, 114, 119, 125, 137  
Miyake, Haruna ..... 44  
Mizoiri, Keizo ..... 44  
Modney, Josh ..... 6  
Moffett, Charles..... 69, 81, 141  
Moffett, Charnett ..... 117

- Moholo, Louis ..... 10  
Moncur, Grachan ..... 144  
Mondragon, Ann ..... 129, 141  
Monk, Thelonious ... 12, 37, 61, 85,  
  120  
Monserrat, Christian ..... 94  
Monteiro, Roméro ..... 49  
Monterose, J.R. ..... 97  
Moon, Jane ..... 129, 141  
Moore, David ..... 78  
Moore, Kenneth ..... 129, 141  
Moore, Kermit ..... 141  
Moore, Ramell ..... 22  
Moran, Matt ..... 67, 115  
Moreau, Fabrice ..... 111  
Morgan, Julija ..... 145  
Morgan, Lee ..... 10  
Morgan, Margaret ..... 129, 141  
Mori, Ikue ..... 6, 11  
Morris, Joe ..... 114  
Morris, Lawrence (Butch)...6, 7, 20,  
  21, 32, 44, 45, 56  
Morris, Wilbur ..... 45, 57, 69, 105  
Morrow, George ..... 109  
Möslang, Norbert ..... 56  
Moss, David ..... 83  
Mossman, Mike ..... 125  
Motian, Paul ..... 75  
Mouthon, Daniel ..... 56  
Moutin, Fran ois ..... 84, 96  
Mowery, Cynthia ..... 129, 141  
Muirhead, Brad ..... 95  
M ller, G nter ..... 8, 56  
M ller, Matthias ..... 143  
Murray, Arthur ..... 58  
Murray, David. .... 7, 21, 33, 45, 57,  
  69, 81, 93, 105, 117, 129, 141  
Murray, Deidre L. ..... 20, 54  
Murray, Jimmy ..... 70  
Murray, Rod ..... 95  
Murray, Sunny ..... 81  
Myers, Amina Claudine ..... 4  
Myers, Louis ..... 4  
Nageotte, Nicolas ..... 49  
Namchylak, Sainkho ..... 92  
Naughton, Bobby ..... 4  
Ndegeocello, Meshell ..... 108  
Neidlinger, Buell .. 82, 94, 106, 130  
Nelson, Matt ..... 83, 119, 131, 143  
Neufeld, Sarah ..... 37  
Neumann, Andrea ..... 143  
Nichols, Kadie ..... 129, 141  
Nicholson, Reggie ..... 18, 20, 102  
Nicolis, Maggie ..... 35, 47, 80  
Niebergall, Buschi ..... 59  
Niggle, Lucas N. ..... 92  
Nillesen, Etienne ..... 82  
Nilssen-Love, Paal ..... 68  
Nix, Bern ..... 45  
Nodwell, Mark ..... 95  
N rby, Ida ..... 145  
Normand,  ric ..... 48  
Ntshoko, Makaya ..... 59  
O'Farrill, Adam ..... 18, 78  
O'Rourke, Jim....5, 19, 31, 43, 55,  
  56, 67, 79, 91, 103, 115, 127,  
  139  
Oberg, Sue ..... 67  
Oechlin, Zabeth ..... 129, 141  
Oh, Gregory ..... 77  
Okura, Shonosuke ..... 44  
Oliveros, Pauline..7, 20, 32, 44, 56,  
  68, 80, 92, 104, 116, 128, 140  
Olsen, Morten J. ..... 143  
Oppens, Ursula ..... 69  
Ord, Graham ..... 95  
Ortel, Dee ..... 129, 141  
Ortiz, Aru n ..... 18  
Osgood, Kresten ..... 142  
Oshima, Yuko ..... 106  
Oshita, Gerald ..... 3, 125  
Otomo, Yoshihide ..... 44  
Overwater, Tony ..... 81  
Paige, Bob ..... 12  
Pallandre, Jean ..... 94  
Panhuyzen, Paul .. 9, 22, 34, 46, 58,  
  70  
Panzer, Elizabeth ..... 20  
Paolizzo, Fabio ..... 145  
Parker, Charlie ..... 120, 132  
Parker, Evan .. 2, 16, 28, 40, 52, 64,  
  76, 82, 88, 100, 112, 124, 136

- Parker, William ..... 17, 20, 47, 102,  
126, 138  
Parkins, Andrea ..... 46  
Parkins, Zeena ..... 6, 20  
Parks, Aaron ..... 30  
Pascher, Stephen ..... 129, 141  
Patterson, Alfred ..... 18  
Patterson, Mimi ..... 32  
Patton, Claudia ..... 129, 141  
Payen, Stéphane ..... 1  
Peacock, Gary ..... 75  
Pedersen, Craig ..... 77  
Perelman, Ivo ..... 4, 18, 30, 42, 54,  
66, 78, 90, 102, 114  
Peterson Jr., Ralph ..... 57, 69, 93  
Pettiford, Oscar ..... 144  
Phillips, Harvey ..... 70  
Phillips, Simon James ..... 143  
Pichelin, Marc ..... 94  
Plimley, Paul ..... 95  
Pluta, Sam ..... 6  
Potter, Tommy ..... 120, 121, 132  
Potts, Steve ..... 65, 89, 101, 113, 125  
Powell, Bud ..... 132  
Powell, John ..... 4  
Powell, Richie ..... 109  
Powell, Seldon ..... 93  
Prainger, Jannie ..... 6  
Prime, Michael ..... 5  
Prosser, Rob ..... 67  
Purcell, John ..... 7, 21, 42, 54, 57, 90  
Quattro, Jesse ..... 46  
Quebec, Ike ..... 144  
Quill, Gene ..... 70  
Quin, Douglas ..... 22  
Ragin, Hugh ..... 57, 69, 89, 137  
Rainey, Tom ..... 19, 43, 55, 103  
Ramey, Gene ..... 12  
Ramirez, Roger ..... 144  
Rampersaud, Nicole ..... 77  
Rand, Sam ..... 120  
Raney, Daniel ..... 32  
Rava, Enrico ..... 29  
Reed, Clyde ..... 95  
Rehberg, Peter ..... 103  
Reichel, Hans ..... 2, 6, 16, 28, 40, 52,  
64, 76, 88, 100, 112, 124, 136  
Reid, Monique ..... 129, 141  
Reid, Tomeka ..... 79, 145  
Reidy, Julia ..... 143  
Rempis, Dave ..... 139  
René, Jean ..... 77  
Reýseger, Ernst ..... 131  
Ribot, Marc ..... 127, 139  
Rich, Buddy ..... 120  
Richards, Steph ..... 36  
Richards, Tom ..... 77  
Rinaldi, Dave ..... 129, 141  
Risser, Eve ..... 82  
Rivera, Dave ..... 144  
Roach, Max ..... 9, 22, 61, 109, 120,  
132  
Robins, Steve ..... 94  
Robinson, Amorie ..... 129, 141  
Robinson, Carol ..... 129, 141  
Robinson, Richard ..... 104  
Rodrigues, Ernesto ..... 71  
Rodrigues, Guilherme ..... 71  
Rogers, David ..... 129, 141  
Rollins, Sonny ..... 61, 121  
Romano, Aldo ..... 29  
Rosen, Myor ..... 120  
Rosenberg, Tom ..... 129, 141  
Rosie, Rick ..... 42  
Ross, Brandon ..... 20  
Rossip, Marty ..... 129, 141  
Rózmann, Ákos ..... 68, 80, 92, 104,  
116, 128, 140  
Rudd, Roswell ..... 70, 94  
Runsteen, Josefina ..... 84  
Ruotolo, Richard ..... 129, 141  
Rush, Stephen ..... 113  
Russell, Curly ..... 120, 132  
Russell, John ..... 76  
Rzewski, Frederic ..... 69, 93  
Saderk, Stan ..... 67  
Saitoh, Tetsu ..... 34  
Sakai, Atsushi ..... 87, 99  
Samworth, Ron ..... 95  
Sanchez, Angelica ..... 78  
Sandell, Sten ..... 92

- Sanders, Pharoah..... 24, 108, 120, 132  
Sargent, Barry ..... 129, 141  
Sassi, Laurent ..... 94  
Sato, Michihiro ..... 44  
Savage, Daniel ..... 129, 141  
Sawai, Hikaru ..... 44  
Sawai, Kazue ..... 34  
Sawyer, Ryan ..... 138  
Saxe, Norin ..... 129, 141  
Scarlow, Robert ..... 129, 141  
Schaffer, R. Murray ..... 104  
Schaffner, Ethan ..... 32  
Scheen, Michiel ..... 6  
Schick, Ignaz ..... 127, 143  
Schick, Steven ..... 95  
Schönegg, Stefan ..... 82  
Schuch, Steven ..... 129, 141  
Schürch, Dorothea ..... 56  
Schütz, Martin ..... 20, 56  
Schwab, Marie ..... 56  
Schwartz, Bela ..... 129, 141  
Schweizer, Irène ..... 10, 23, 35, 47, 59, 71, 80, 104  
Schworm, Marta ..... 129, 141  
Seabrook, Brandon ..... 83, 95, 107, 119, 126, 131, 143  
Seckinger, David ..... 129, 141  
Seeman, Philip ..... 129, 141  
Severance, Nanci ..... 129, 141  
Severinsen, Doc ..... 70  
Shahid, Jaribu ..... 17, 89, 125  
Shapire, Mark ..... 129, 141  
Sharp, Elliott ..... 20  
Sharp, Jason ..... 77  
Shell, Scott ..... 5  
Shepp, Archie ..... 70, 82, 94  
Sheridan, Angelika ..... 82  
Shihab, Sahib ..... 12  
Shipp, Matthew ..... 17, 102, 114, 126, 138  
Shlasko, Edward ..... 129, 141  
Siddik, Rasul ..... 69  
Siegel, Julien ..... 31  
Silver, Horace ..... 61  
Simmons, John ..... 37  
Simonson, Shannon ..... 129, 141  
Singer, Joseph ..... 120  
Sironne ..... 142  
Skinner, Tom ..... 31  
Škrijelj, Emilie ..... 58  
Smirnoff, Zelly ..... 120  
Smith, Allen ..... 129, 141  
Smith, Billy ..... 12  
Smith, Brian ..... 30  
Smith, Ches ..... 90  
Smith, Marriane ..... 129, 141  
Smith, Sonelius ..... 105  
Smith, Wadada Leo ... 4, 17, 29, 41, 53, 65, 77, 89, 93, 101, 113, 125, 137  
Smith, Warren ..... 42, 54, 93, 102  
Smythe, Cory ..... 6  
Sølborg, Mark ..... 130  
Sommer, Günter ..... 35, 47, 89  
Sorder, Nicolas ..... 56  
Sorey, Tyshawn.... 36, 82, 108, 137  
Sorgen, Harvey ..... 142  
Soule, Jeffrey ..... 129, 141  
Spaulding, James ..... 69  
Speed, Chris ..... 127, 139  
Spirli, Alfred ..... 49  
Stackpole, Karen ..... 46  
Stangl, Burkhard ..... 107  
Stanton, Davis ..... 42  
Steiner, Jennifer ..... 129, 141  
Stetson, Colin....11, 37, 49, 61, 73, 85  
Stetson, Megan ..... 37  
Stevens, John ..... 123  
Stewart, Aaron ..... 11  
Stewart, Bob ..... 7, 21, 30  
Stipelman, Carole ..... 129, 141  
Stocklosa, David ..... 129, 141  
Strandh, Lotta.....68, 80, 92, 104, 116, 128, 140  
Strid, Raymond ..... 116  
Stuckey, Pamela ..... 129, 141  
Studer, Fredy ..... 56  
Sturm, Hans ..... 113  
Suftin, Isha ..... 67  
Sulieman, Idrees ..... 12

- Summerfield, Toby ..... 11  
Sundström, Curt ..... 68, 80, 92, 104,  
    116, 128, 140  
Svensson Sander, Leo ..... 84  
Swartzentruber, Francine ..... 129, 141  
Swell, Steve ..... 68  
Tabbal, Tani ..... 17, 89, 125  
Taborn, Craig ..... 66  
Tacuma, Jamaaladeen ..... 45  
Tafoya, Victor Lowrie ..... 66, 78  
Taitt, George ..... 12  
Takahashi, Ayuo ..... 44  
Talbert, Michael ..... 129, 141  
Tanaka, Yumiko ..... 44  
Tarnoff, Wendy ..... 129, 141  
Tarshis, Suzanne ..... 129, 141  
Tatro, David ..... 32  
Taylor, Art ..... 36, 60, 72  
Taylor, Cecil ..... 9, 22, 34, 47, 58, 70,  
    82, 94, 106, 118, 130, 142  
Taylor, Penelope ..... 78  
Tchicai, John ..... 59  
Teitelbaum, Richard ..... 8, 29, 93  
Terry, Clark ..... 70, 94  
Thieke, Michael ..... 143  
Thomas, Clayton ..... 143  
Thomas, James ..... 129, 141  
Thomas, Victor ..... 129, 141  
Thomson, Scott ..... 77  
Thorne, Beth ..... 129, 141  
Threadgill, Henry ..... 17, 29, 41, 45,  
    81, 126  
Titlebaum, Michael ..... 32  
Tolentino, Ife ..... 31  
Tooley, Ron ..... 54  
Toorell, Anton ..... 84  
Toyzumi, Sabu ..... 77  
Troupe, Quincy ..... 95  
Trzaska, Mikołaj ..... 68  
Turetzky, Bertram ..... 23, 47  
Turk, Tommy ..... 120  
Tyner, McCoy ..... 24, 48, 84, 96, 108,  
    144  
Uba, Mchaka ..... 4  
Uchihashi, Kazuhisa ..... 88, 100  
Ullén, Lisa ..... 120  
Valtysdottir, Gyda ..... 37  
van Bergen, Peter ..... 6  
van der Schyff, Dylan ..... 95  
Vanden, Jim ..... 67  
Vandermark, Ken ..... 68  
Varty, Alex ..... 65  
Vatcher, Michael ..... 6  
Veras, Nelson ..... 15, 27  
Vernon, Justin ..... 73  
Vidal, Carlos ..... 120  
Vogel, Sabine ..... 143  
von Gierke, Karin ..... 129, 141  
Voutchkova, Biliana ..... 71, 108, 143,  
    145  
Wadud, Abdul ..... 35  
Waldron, Mal ..... 77, 97  
Wallen, Byron ..... 31  
Walrath, Jack ..... 54, 102  
Walter, Justin ..... 37  
Walter, Weasel ..... 30  
Wandt, Niklas ..... 82  
Ward, Alex ..... 132  
Ward, Carlos ..... 47  
Warelis, Marta ..... 60  
Warren, Elizabeth ..... 129, 141  
Waziniak, Thierry ..... 49  
Weiss, Dan ..... 84  
Welch, Elizabeth ..... 129, 141  
Wells, Gretchen ..... 5  
West, Danny Quebec ..... 12  
West, Harold (Doc) ..... 132  
Weston, Randy ..... 129  
Wexler, Mattew ..... 129, 141  
Whatley, Andre ..... 129, 141  
Wheeler, Kenny ..... 8, 21, 93, 105,  
    117  
White, Joshua ..... 36  
Whitman, Todd ..... 46  
Wiancko, Michi ..... 60  
Wierbos, Wolter ..... 6  
Wijsman, Suzanne ..... 129, 141  
Wilder, Dawn ..... 129, 141  
Wilder, Joe ..... 70  
Wildman, Joan ..... 113  
Wiles, David ..... 129, 141  
Willberg, Otto ..... 132

- Williams, Rod ..... 7, 21  
Wilson, David ..... 129, 141  
Wilson, Philip ..... 93  
Wilson, Shadow ..... 37  
Winant, William ..... 113  
Wise, Steven ..... 129, 141  
Wittwer, Stephan ..... 56  
Wolf, Sue ..... 5  
Wollesen, Kenny ..... 127, 139  
Woo, Marcus ..... 129, 141  
Wood, Charles ..... 129, 141  
Woods, Phil ..... 70  
Wooley, Nate ..... 67, 115  
Worden, Shara ..... 61  
Work, Galen ..... 129, 141  
Workman, Reggie ..... 33  
Wyatt, Robert ..... 18  
Wynter, Courtnay ..... 54  
Yancey, Yousef ..... 4  
Yoshizawa, Motoharu ..... 20, 44  
Young, Gene ..... 129, 141  
Yurman, Rachel ..... 129, 141  
Zakim, Michael ..... 129, 141  
Zapparoli, Marta ..... 127, 143  
Zerang, Michael ..... 118, 139  
Zethson, Alexander ..... 84  
Zetterberg, Torbjörn ..... 84  
Ziontz, Ellen ..... 129, 141  
Zir, Isadore ..... 120  
Zorn, John. .... 5, 19, 31, 43, 55, 59,  
67, 71, 79, 83, 91, 103, 115,  
127, 139  
Zwissler, Florian ..... 82

## Index of Labels

- 52Hz ..... 37, 85  
577 Records ..... 65, 126, 138  
Aagoo Records ..... 49  
ABC Records ..... 84  
Adelphi Records ..... 65  
Aerophonic Records ..... 139  
American Recording Society ..... 130  
Another Timbre ..... 143  
Apollo Records ..... 70  
År Og Dag ..... 106  
Arista ..... 8, 21, 33, 46, 57, 69, 81, 93, 105, 117, 129, 141  
Arrow Academy ..... 127  
Artists House ..... 45  
Atlantic ..... 8, 21, 33, 36, 57, 93, 97  
Atmosphere Records ..... 81  
Avant ..... 119  
Ayler Records ..... 7, 39, 51, 116  
Barefoot Records ..... 121  
Barkhausen Recordings ..... 145  
Barnaby Records ..... 94  
Black Saint ..... 4, 7, 17, 18, 21, 30, 33, 35, 42, 45, 54, 57, 66, 69, 81, 89, 90, 93, 101, 102, 105, 114, 117, 125, 126, 129, 141  
Blast First ..... 136  
Blue Note ..... 10, 12, 37, 61, 85, 97, 105, 138  
Bruce's Fingers ..... 70  
BYG Records ..... 101  
Byrd Out ..... 2  
Call It Anything Records ..... 118  
Candid ..... 31, 82  
Caravan Of Dreams Productions ..... 129  
Clean Feed ..... 43, 136  
Connexe Records ..... 1  
Constellation ..... 61, 73  
Corbett Vs. Dempsey ..... 100  
CounterCurrents ..... 6, 20, 32, 44  
Creative Sources ..... 59, 71  
Cuneiform Records ..... 5, 54  
Debut Records ..... 58  
Definitive Records ..... 144  
Delmark Records ..... 41, 78  
Divided ..... 55  
DIW ..... 5, 19, 31, 43, 55, 67, 79, 91, 103  
Don Giovanni Records ..... 145  
Drag City ..... 79  
ECM Records ..... 60  
Edition Telemark ..... 9, 22, 34, 58  
Emanem ..... 15, 29, 53, 123  
EmArcy ..... 109  
Emphase Records ..... 136  
Entenpfuhl ..... 31  
Erstwhile Records ..... 8  
ESP Disk ..... 102, 141  
Eux Sæm ..... 58  
Experimental Intermedia Records ..... 46  
Extreme ..... 43  
Firehouse 12 Records ..... 18, 90, 126  
FMP ..... 2, 16, 23, 28, 40, 52, 64, 88, 89, 104, 136  
For 4 Ears ..... 22, 56  
Fou Records ..... 128, 140  
Free Sone ..... 106  
Fundacja Słuchaj! ..... 4, 18, 30, 42, 54, 66, 78, 90, 142  
Gaffer Records ..... 83  
Get Back ..... 51  
Gotta Let It Out ..... 142  
Guitar Player Magazine ..... 136  
Harmolodic ..... 117  
hat ART ..... 59, 71  
hatOLOGY ..... 113, 125  
Honest Jon's Records ..... 27, 39  
Hôte Marge ..... 75  
Ideologic Organ ..... 68, 80, 92, 104, 116, 128, 140  
ILK Music ..... 130  
IMPAKT Records ..... 82  
Important Records ..... 7, 20, 32, 44, 56, 68, 80, 92, 104, 116, 128, 140

- improvised beings ..... 123  
Impulse! .... 24, 48, 70, 84, 96, 108,  
120, 132, 144  
Incus Records..... 1, 23, 52, 88, 91,  
111, 135  
Intakt Records . 3, 6, 10, 35, 42, 47,  
71, 91, 124  
International Record Imports....69,  
81  
Jazz Door..... 115  
Kadima Collective..... 47  
Korm Plastics ..... 5, 19  
Leo Records ..... 47, 92, 124  
Les Disques du Soleil et de l'Acier  
..... 52, 112, 124  
Les Disques Victo ..... 34, 115  
Mego ..... 103  
Mélisse Music ..... 111  
Mikroton Recordings ..... 143  
Monotype Records ..... 95  
Montaigne ..... 56  
Morgue ..... 137  
Mutable Music ..... 3  
Nessa Records ..... 4, 77  
New World Records.. 6, 20, 32, 44,  
142  
Ni-Vu-Ni-Connu ..... 10, 127  
no label..... 49, 82, 94  
No Man's Land ..... 83  
NoBusiness Records..... 77  
Nonesuch..... 66, 78  
Norgran Records ..... 133  
Not Two Records ..... 68, 80, 112  
Otoroku ..... 64  
Ouïe-Dire Production ..... 94  
Ovni Records.... 15, 27, 87, 99, 135  
Paratactile..... 75  
Pi Recordings .... 11, 24, 36, 83, 84,  
95, 96, 107, 108, 119, 131, 143  
Pogus Productions..... 130  
Prestige..... 60, 72, 121  
PSF Records ..... 2, 16, 64, 76  
psi ..... 28  
Rastascan Records..... 76  
Record Collection Music..... 11  
Recorded ..... 46  
Relative Pitch Records .. 19, 36, 45,  
55, 60, 63, 67, 72, 84, 96, 103,  
108, 115, 120, 132, 145  
Revenant..... 139  
RogueArt..... 20, 32, 79, 113, 114  
Room40..... 23  
Sackville Recordings..... 9, 53  
Samadhisound ..... 99  
Savoy Jazz..... 132  
Scatter ..... 63  
SMP Records..... 114  
Sofa ..... 35  
Soul Note..... 9, 17, 22, 34, 41, 65,  
77, 89, 107, 131  
Splitrec ..... 119  
Staaltape ..... 5, 19  
Streamline ..... 28  
Swordfish Records ..... 88  
Table of the Elements..... 136  
Teldec Import Service ..... 112  
The ACT Company ..... 48, 72  
Thirsty Ear..... 30  
Tour de Bras..... 48  
Treader ..... 16  
Trost Records ..... 118  
TUM Records.. 17, 29, 41, 53, 101,  
113, 125, 137  
Turtles' Dream ..... 100  
Tzadik . 11, 40, 67, 76, 87, 95, 102,  
127, 139  
United Artists ..... 106, 118  
Unsounds..... 107  
Verve Records..... 117, 120  
Veto Records..... 131  
VG+ Records..... 138  
Wide Hive Records ..... 29, 137  
Willisau Live Records..... 59  
Zenbei ..... 100

## **Index of Countries**

- Australia ..... 23, 43, 119  
Austria ... 68, 80, 92, 103, 104, 116,  
  118, 128, 140  
Canada.... 9, 34, 48, 53, 61, 73, 115  
Denmark..... 58, 94, 106, 121, 130,  
  142, 145  
Finland..... 17, 29, 41, 53, 101, 113,  
  125, 137  
France .. 1, 7, 15, 20, 27, 32, 39, 49,  
  51, 52, 56, 58, 69, 75, 79, 81,  
  83, 87, 94, 99, 100, 101, 106,  
  111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 123,  
  124, 128, 135, 140  
Germany.... 2, 9, 16, 22, 23, 28, 31,  
  34, 40, 48, 52, 58, 60, 64, 72,  
  82, 83, 88, 89, 104, 112, 114,  
  115, 136  
Israel..... 47  
Italy..... 4, 7, 9, 17, 18, 21, 22, 30,  
  33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 45, 51, 54,  
  57, 65, 66, 69, 77, 81, 89, 90,  
  93, 101, 102, 105, 107, 114,  
  117, 125, 126, 129, 131, 141  
Japan.... 2, 5, 16, 19, 31, 43, 55, 64,  
  67, 76, 79, 91, 100, 103, 119,  
  137  
Lithuania..... 77  
Luxembourg ..... 10, 127  
Norway ..... 35  
Poland..... 4, 18, 30, 42, 54, 66, 68,  
  78, 80, 90, 95, 112, 142  
Portugal ..... 43, 59, 71, 136  
Russia ..... 143  
Spain..... 118  
Switzerland..... 3, 6, 10, 22, 35, 42,  
  47, 56, 59, 71, 91, 113, 124,  
  125, 131  
The Netherlands ..... 5, 19, 70, 107  
United Kingdom.... 1, 2, 15, 16, 23,  
  27, 28, 29, 31, 39, 47, 52, 53,  
  63, 64, 70, 75, 88, 91, 92, 99,  
  111, 123, 124, 127, 135, 136,  
  143, 144  
United States..... 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,  
  11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 29,  
  30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 41, 44,  
  45, 46, 48, 49, 54, 55, 56, 57,  
  60, 61, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69,  
  70, 72, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81,  
  82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 90, 92, 93,  
  94, 95, 96, 97, 100, 102, 103,  
  104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109,  
  115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120,  
  121, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130,  
  131, 132, 133, 136, 137, 138,  
  139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144,  
  145

## Index of Years

- 1944..... 132, 144  
1945..... 132, 144  
1946..... 144  
1947..... 12, 120, 132, 144  
1948..... 37  
1949..... 120  
1950..... 120  
1951..... 37  
1952..... 61  
1953..... 121  
1954..... 133  
1955..... 109  
1956..... 97  
1957..... 10, 61, 130  
1958..... 85  
1959..... 8, 106, 118  
1960..... 36  
1961..... 21, 72, 82  
1962..... 33, 70, 93, 141  
1963..... 48, 58  
1964..... 96, 97, 138  
1965..... 60, 140, 141  
1966 .....24, 41, 44, 56, 68, 69, 80,  
81, 92, 104, 116, 128, 132  
1967..... 7, 20, 29, 108, 120  
1968..... 29, 78, 105  
1969..... 101  
1970..... 32, 57, 144  
1971..... 84, 123  
1972..... 53, 94  
1973..... 29, 123  
1974..... 53, 111, 123  
1975..... 8, 21, 51, 136  
1976..... 2, 33, 52, 59, 66, 93  
1977..... 9, 65, 105, 117  
1978... 16, 35, 45, 64, 81, 126, 129,  
141  
1979... 46, 57, 69, 81, 89, 101, 113,  
123, 125, 135, 137, 142  
1980..... 4, 27, 30, 39, 123  
1981..... 3, 16, 89, 141  
1982..... 17, 45, 69, 88  
1983..... 4  
1984..... 9, 22, 33, 125  
1985..... 7, 42, 107  
1986.... 21, 35, 63, 64, 83, 112, 129  
1987.... 10, 34, 57, 63, 77, 90, 123,  
129  
1988..... 47, 59, 104, 132  
1989..... 15, 28, 40, 54, 93, 136  
1990..... 16  
1991.... 23, 31, 40, 41, 69, 88, 115,  
124  
1992.... 2, 5, 19, 52, 55, 71, 81, 131  
1993.....17, 43, 92, 102, 105, 114,  
119, 136  
1994... 5, 12, 19, 28, 37, 61, 63, 76,  
85  
1995... 6, 18, 20, 31, 32, 40, 43, 44,  
52, 67, 89, 115  
1996.... 15, 41, 55, 56, 64, 67, 117,  
127, 136, 139  
1997.... 1, 22, 79, 89, 117, 124, 139  
1998.. 23, 46, 56, 91, 100, 103, 123  
1999..... 70, 91, 103, 123, 144  
2000..... 8, 51, 95  
2001..... 28, 31  
2002..... 11, 65, 76, 87, 94, 135  
2003..... 75, 100, 120  
2004... 11, 34, 46, 56, 96, 112, 113,  
124, 125  
2005..... 24, 88, 108  
2006..... 64, 84, 99  
2007..... 49, 87  
2008..... 36, 59, 136  
2009..... 4, 72, 76, 79, 111, 130  
2010..... 3, 43, 47, 48, 75, 116, 143  
2011..... 30, 61, 113  
2012... 7, 20, 29, 32, 44, 49, 53, 56,  
68, 80, 90, 92, 95, 104, 112,  
116, 128, 140  
2013..... 1, 45, 73, 107, 137, 140  
2014..... 39, 51, 60  
2015..... 42, 123  
2016.....19, 37, 55, 70, 80, 82, 83,  
136, 143

*Index of Years*

- 2017....48, 58, 67, 71, 85, 127, 128  
2018.....9, 22, 27, 34, 39, 64, 77,  
    102, 114  
2019.....11, 15, 27, 102, 115  
2020...6, 16, 18, 35, 54, 58, 68, 87,  
    94, 99, 126, 132, 138  
2021...2, 4, 5, 7, 17, 18, 20, 23, 29,  
    30, 32, 36, 41, 42, 49, 53, 54,  
    66, 71, 78, 83, 84, 90, 95, 106,  
                107, 114, 119, 131, 135, 138,  
                142, 143  
2022....10, 60, 63, 65, 66, 68, 72,  
    78, 79, 80, 82, 91, 92, 96, 100,  
    101, 103, 104, 106, 108, 113,  
    116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 125,  
    126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 137,  
    139, 140, 142, 145

## About the Creators

It can be said that the fruiting body of Hebeloma Crustuliniforme sprouted from an extensive subterranean network in response to a spring rain, sometime during the last quarter of the twentieth century. She pursued an eclectic education, typically outside the institutional credentialing process. She has worked in Europe and America as an anthropologist and as an editor. She currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Exploratory Meta-Living and occupies a similar role at the Poison Pie Publishing House.

Her interest in a literature of non-idiomatic improvisation arose naturally from her study of apophenia, the human perception of patterns and intent in random or meaningless data. There is a great joy to be discovered in what others might regard as a deep self-delusion. Hebeloma asks the readers' indulgence to allow her to share that joy.

Julia K. Keffer is the creative force behind the Bus Stop Art Show of Phoenix, Arizona. The Bus Stop Art Show embraces the ephemerality of art and its unknowable impacts through the unsanctioned placement of artwork in public spaces. The dismantling of the art is an invited act inseparably entwined with the self-selecting distribution of the works by passers-by who discover something that appeals to them and who take a piece with them.

The twelve works, one appearing at the beginning of each chapter of the Abyssal Aria, are portraits of characters and scenes, informed by descriptions within the score. No further instructions were necessary.

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Post-Existential Fantasies Generated through  
a Non-Idiomatic Improvisational Creative Process**

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- Tales of the Mushroom People (2011)
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