

NEW COMPILATION FEATURES MUSIC FROM MEMBERS OF ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE, DEATH GRIPS, XIU XIU, A MINOR FOREST, YELLOW SWANS, GERMAN ARMY, SHEARING PINX, BLACK SPIRITUALS, MORE



Artist: Various Artists
Title: Zum Audio Vol 4
Catalog number: Zum038
Format: Digital-only

Release date: Nov 5th, 2021
On Bandcamp and all streaming platforms (via The Orchard)

[Zum Audio Vol 4](#) surveys a cross-section of this decade's art rock, punk, damaged electronics, and improvised music. Unconstrained by the limitation of previous CD incarnations, the thirty-plus tracks here span musicians from the US, UK, Canada, Japan, Italy, and Australia.

Curated by George Chen (KIT, Common Eider, King Eider, Chen Santa Maria), a writer and musician-turned-comedian, these international connections grew out of years touring the US and Europe as well as promoting all-ages events in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The wishlist for this compilation was like putting together a virtual festival, which was conveniently the only type of festivity during COVID-19. Between established legacy acts on the Zum label (**Body Double**, **The Acharis**, **My Heart**, **an Inverted Flame**, **Core of the Coalman**, **Somnambulists**, **Neil Campbell**), veteran associates playing in new configurations (**Spaceburn**, **The Skin Horse**, **Carrom**, **Gabriel Saloman**), and newfound discoveries (**Barbican Estate**, **It Sound**, **Bavaria**), one senses the continuity of expansive tastes that has defined the long-running series.

[Zum Audio Vol 4 comes out Nov 5th on Bandcamp](#). Bandcamp is the most artist-friendly of the music streaming options and the one we feel best supporting.

<https://zumaudio.bandcamp.com/album/zum-audio-vol-4>

Other digital streaming platforms will have the compilation now.

[Wouter Vanhaelmeesch](#) illustrated the cover artwork. Vanhaelmeesch is based in Ghent, Belgium, where he promotes concerts, runs the audioMER label, and has illustrated album covers for Jozef Van Wissem, Steve Gunn, and Smegma.

Zum is the longstanding label established by siblings George and Yvonne Chen in the late 1990s in the San Francisco Bay Area. They started off putting out a magazine with a compilation CD and expanded to releasing vinyl in 1999. [Interview with [George and Marc Masters in Pitchfork](#) : <https://pitchfork.com/features/the-out-door/7825-the-out-door-5/?page=4>].

While the label has not released consecutively for 23 years, the COVID pandemic brought back a sense of focus. Even as plans had been formulated prior to shutdown, it seemed urgent to put out albums while the entire touring and live show circuit was on hold.

To that end, George Chen decided to take both promising demo submissions and longtime friends to assemble a survey of everyone's quarantine projects. Chen places a premium on building community and views this compilation as an extension of that.

[Zumaudio.com](#)

PRESS:

BROOKLYNVEGAN

<https://www.brooklynvegan.com/stream-new-zach-hill-xiu-xiu-prissy-whip-body-double-songs-from-new-zum-comp/>

TREBLE

<https://www.treblezine.com/hear-four-new-tracks-on-the-zum-audio-vol-4-from-barbican-estate-somnambulists-cube-and-carrom/>

IDIOTEQ

<https://idioteq.com/zum-audio-vol-4-delivers-a-wide-array-of-experimental-rock-offerings-from-32-bands-hear-the-multifaceted-openers-here/>

TRACK LIST

1. **Alien Owl Cafe** - *Magick Matcha Moment*
2. **My Heart, an Inverted Flame** - *Five Felt Sevenly, Pallid and Sallow*
3. **Looose** - *It Was All Nearly Mine!*
4. **Kris & Tavi** - *Carrington Event*
5. **Earth Jerks** - *July 17th, 1959*
6. **The Urxed** - *Re-Regional*
7. **Prissy Whip** - *Not Impressed*
8. **The Acharis** - *Nothing's Sacred*

9. **Body Double** - *Prisonous Mind*
10. **Watkins/Peacock** - *Stone Cold Stole Dub One*
11. **It Sound** - *Inbetween the Seas (Lectric Sand Dub Mix)*
12. **Michael Beach, Bonnie Mercer, Carla Oliver, Peter Warden** - *Kyneton #1*
13. **Barbican Estate** - *Abandon*
14. **Maskara** - *Dear Inertia... (#3)*
15. **Xiu Xiu** - *A Bottle of Rum (Live Radio)*
16. **Core of the Coalman** - *Incarnate Words*
17. **Somnambulists** - *Discordances*
18. **Spaceburn** - *New Growth*
19. **Pod Blotz** - *Remote Viewing Case #80787*
20. **Cube** - *Carpet ESP*
21. **Zach Hill** - *Startled Ea*
22. **Necking** - *Abyssal Joy*
23. **Chris Brian Taylor** - *Super Reverse Commuter*
24. **Jasmine Dreame Wagner** - *Three Themes from Drifts (Red Zone, Blue Ice, White Snow)*
25. **Father Murphy** - *His Face Showed No Distortions (Live at WFMU)*
26. **Neil Campbell** - *Rickety Bridge in the Rain*
27. **Bavaria** - *Nouveau Couteaux*
28. **Carrom** - *Number 4 (A.T.S.T.S.)*
29. **Kern Haug** - *to Mass*
30. **The Skin Horse** - *High Desert*
31. **Gabriel Saloman** - *Spatial Poetics*
32. **John Benson** - *Blood and Milk*

-Contributor bios-

Alien Owl Cafe is an international collaboration between New York's Matt Mottel (Talibam, CSC Funk Band), Japanese guitar legend [Mitsuru Tabata](http://www.tabatamitsuru.com/) (Acid Mothers Temple, Boredoms, Zeni Geva), and Japanese powerhouse drummer Shinji Wada (DMBQ). The trio recorded an album's worth of improvisations when Mottel travelled to Japan, and the name is a variation on Mottel's other project [Alien Whale](http://wadashinji.com/) (with Colin Langenus and Nick Lesley).

<http://wadashinji.com/>

<http://www.tabatamitsuru.com/>

<https://www.mattmottel.info/>

Necking is Nick Lesley (Oma Yang, Vholtz, Scarcity of Tanks) who has paid dues in the experimental music scenes of both East and West coasts since the late '90s. He is joined here by Amy Cimini on viola and Scott Nielsen on bass.

<http://www.nicklesley.com/>

My Heart, an Inverted Flame is a synth and drums doom-drone duo from San Francisco. Both Andee Connors (Common Eider, King Eider, A Minor Forest) and Marc Kate (Never Knows) have appeared on the Zum Audio Vol 2 compilation over two decades ago in their respective projects P.E.E. and I Am Spoonbender. Their debut album Plague Notes, Unnamed, Unknown, A Finger Dragged Through Dust was released in 2020 by Deathbomb Arc, Zum, and tUMULT. Their song here, "Five Felt Sevenly, Pallid and Sallow", has a Carpenter-esque arpeggiated rhythmic thrust that varies from previous MHAIF output.

<https://myheartaninvertedflame.bandcamp.com/>

Another alum of A Minor Forest, **John Benson** has played a vital role spanning three decades in Oakland's underground. Playing in such bands as Hale Zukas, [Black Dog](#), Evil Wikkid Warrior, Benson also started developing a solo electronic set involving the vibrating skin of a bass drum, milk, and blood. This is not that piece, although the titular "Blood and Milk" inform the lyrics. Benson plays zither, tapes, and bells in addition to singing, and he is joined by Dave Easlick (Jackie O Motherfucker, Puke Attack) on drums and Suzi Garner provides vocals.

<http://www.followthatparade.com/>

Robert Barber is **The Urxed**, an electronic beat driven project which was contemporaneous with his band [High Places](#) (Thrill Jockey). Based in Los Angeles, Barber also DJs at Dublab and has done a live score with artist [Doug Aitken](#).

<https://soundcloud.com/theurxed>

Gabriel Saloman was in an early oughts noise project with George Chen called [Boxleitner](#). He went on to form half of the prolific [Yellow Swans](#), and is now working on a PhD at UC Santa Cruz's History of Consciousness Department in addition to recording his own solo work.

<https://gabrielsaloman.bandcamp.com/>

Father Murphy was a long-running group from near Venice, Italy, who released seven albums and toured the world from 2003 to 2018. The duo of Federico Zanatta and Chiara Lee were central to a movement known as Italian Occult Psychedelia, which overlaps with genre film. This live recording came from an on-air session at WFMU in 2014.

<https://fathermurphy.org/>

Chris Brian Taylor came up in the Bay Area and Bloomington, IN punk scenes before becoming a DJ and electronic music fanatic. Based in Los Angeles, Taylor has been releasing collaborations with Jeremy Kennedy on the [fuck me stupid mountain princess recording collective, llc](https://www.instagram.com/fuckme stupid mountain princess recording collective, llc).
<https://www.instagram.com/chrisbriantaylorpromo/>

Prissy Whip is distorto prog noise rock from Los Angeles. Vocalist Crow Jane (Egrets on Ergot), Kyle Souza on guitar, Zach Lewis on bass vi, Dalton Blanco on drums.
<https://prissywhip.bandcamp.com/>

Jasmine Dreame Wagner is a writer, multimedia artist, and songwriter. She has published books of poetry and created short films. The piece excerpts composition scores from Wagner's upcoming film called *Drifts*.
<https://jasminedreamewagner.bandcamp.com/>

Watkins/Peacock is Zachary James Watkins ([Black Spirituals](#)) and Ross Peacock (Mwahaha) from Oakland, CA. An improvised synthesizer duo, Watkins/Peacock have released music on The Tapeworm and the Freaks label.
<https://watkinspeacock.bandcamp.com/>

Xiu Xiu have long been intertwined with Zum (co-founder Yvonne Chen was a member on the first two Xiu Xiu albums) but this is the first time in two decades we are releasing any of their music. This track is the duo of Jamie Stewart and Angela Seo performing on the University of Washington Seattle streaming radio. Another version of "A Bottle of Rum" appears on the 2021 album *Oh No* (Polyvinyl).
<http://www.xiuxiu.org/>

The Acharis Shaun Wagner and Mila Puccini released a debut album, 2017's *Lost in the Vortex*, toured Europe, and then spent the next three years recording the follow up *Blue Sky/Grey Heaven* with producer John Fryer (This Mortal Coil). While much of *Blue Sky/Grey Heaven* (co-released between Cranes Records and Zum) focuses on the dark and ethereal, "Nothing's Sacred" is a raucous outtake from those sessions that deserved its own plating. The band will be on tour in Europe and the UK in November.
<https://theacharis.bandcamp.com/>

Bavaria is Tara Tavi, Jill Barron, and Joseph Wangler who have been playing together since 2016. Tavi plays the guzheng, a plucked zither, Barron plays flute, and Wangler plays bowed bass.
<https://bavaria1.bandcamp.com/>

Body Double burst upon the post-punk scene with their 2020 debut *Milk Fed*. “Prisonous Mind” is one of the ragers from that record, released to critical acclaim on Zum and played on Henry Rollins’ KCRW program. Recent live shows include the [Halloween Meltdown](#) in Oakland’s Mosswood Park, hosted by John Waters.

<https://linktr.ee/bodydoubleusa>

Cube is New York’s Adam Keith, longtime Bay Area noisemaker in groups like Mansion and Body Glove. In addition to releasing Cube music on W.25TH, Alter, Nostilevo, Digitalis, and Left Hand Path, Keith publishes the music and art journal Baited Area.

<https://soundcloud.com/adamkeith-1>

Barbican Estate have been making music in Tokyo, Japan since 2019. 2020 saw the release of several EPs featuring Kazuki Toneri’s haunting guitar and sitar, vocals and bass by Miri (just “Miri”), and Koh Hamada on drums. Referencing shoegaze, avant-garde cinema, and the poetry of William Blake, the art rock scene is lucky to have practitioners so steeped in their fully formed aesthetic.

<https://barbicanestate.bandcamp.com>

Maskara Nxc Hxghxs runs the foundational Vancouver, BC label [Isolated Now Waves](#), as well as playing in groups like Shearing Pinx and Channels 3 + 4. Maskara is Hxghxs’ solo work of vocals and keyboards, and it has a claustrophobic goth quality that we have come to love via this track.

<https://maskara.bandcamp.com/>

Michael Beach is an Australian who lived in San Francisco for many years. He has assembled a crack band with **Bonnie Mercer** (Grey Daturas), **Carla Oliver** (Alex Albrecht, Badskin), and **Peter Warden** (Brain Drugs, Onion Engine, Shovels). Together they recorded an improvised session between summer lockdowns and we are pleased to share the results of this uniquely Melbourne collaboration.

<https://michaelbeach.bandcamp.com/>

<https://bonniemercher.bandcamp.com/>

Earth Jerks is the solo project of Chris Dixon (Death Sentence:Panda!, Hot Fucking Jets, Nam) of San Francisco. He’s released these dense drone pieces on his own Computer Tapes label and on the storied Ba Da Bing!

<https://soundcloud.com/earthjerks>

Kris and Tavi Peter Kris is the nom de guerre of the prolific guitarist behind German Army. Tara Tavi was in Amps for Christ, Soddamn Inssein, Auto Da Fe, and Bavaria. They recently released an album *Chiral* on Post Present Medium.

<https://soundcloud.com/krisandtavi>

Carrom is Toronto-based Chandan Narayan and friends; this time around that includes drummer Ryan Jewell (Psychedelic Horseshit). Narayan has the rare distinction of appearing on all four Zum Audio compilations, as well as contributing to the zine in its earliest form. Here Carrom covers a song by Mike Watt and Kira Roessler's group Dos, from their debut 1986 album on New Alliance. Narayan plays guitar, bass, and sarangi, a bowed stringed instrument from India.

<https://carromboard.bandcamp.com/>

Spaceburn is Steven Santa Maria (Fun Santa Maria, Chen Santa Maria) and Brian Tester (HITS, Triangle, Jeepneys). The Bay Area duo has performed DIY shows for years, occasionally opening for Fuck Buttons or releasing a cassette on the Break-Up label.

<https://sspaceburn.bandcamp.com/>

Looose is solo work from Randylee Sutherland, an Oakland-via-Michigan journeyman musician/artist. He has performed and recorded in Sword and Sandals, Nuclear Death Wish, Wiggwaum, Breakarts, Thin Ensemble, Grotesque, and Vholtz.

<https://randyleesutherland.bandcamp.com/>

It Sound is the project of Seattle's Jesse Damm, who released an album called *Hard Pop for Blue Trees* on the label End Up Records. The dubby remix here was produced by Jeremy Campbell aka Lectric Sands.

<https://itsound.bandcamp.com/>

Core of the Coalman Jorge Boehringer released one album on Zum, 2010's *Box of the Last Help*, which received praise in *The Wire*. He has also released Coalman records on Resipiscent, Feathered Coyote, Chocolate Monk, and Students of Decay. He is based in the UK and performs at venues like London's Cafe Oto.

<https://coreofthecoalman.bandcamp.com/>

The Skin Horse is solo guitarist Nathan Dalton, formerly of the groups Nuzzle and The Dying Californian. He is also a radio and video producer.

<https://theskinhorse.bandcamp.com/>

Somnambulists Warren Ng has been creating music and visual art in New York for over two decades. His group This Invitation released two albums, he has performed live film scores with Simon Liu, and played solo as part of Che Chen (75 Dollar Bill)'s *Fire Over Heaven* series. His last Somnambulists album, *From the Field to the Factory*, came out on Zum as a cassette in 2019.

<https://somnambulistsmusic.bandcamp.com/>

Neil Campbell has been a major figure in the UK experimental music scene since the '80s. His Astral Social Club project initially got our attention, and we released his collaborative album with Robert Horton, [Trojandropper](#), in 2012. [Other projects](#) in addition to his copious solo work include Vibracathedral Orchestra, A Band, libiis Rooze, and many collaborations with Richard Youngs.

<https://theneilcampbell.bandcamp.com/>

We got to know **Zach Hill** back in the early oughts era of Hella and Crime in Choir. We've followed the growth of Death Grips, The I.L.Y.'s, and even seen him in Boadrum in London. Now based in Los Angeles, his most recent project is [Undo K From Hot](#) with members of Tera Melos. "Startled Ea" is his most recent solo recording.

<https://zachhill.bandcamp.com/>

Kern Haug is a Los Angeles based improviser, producer, and composer. He has played in Young Jesus (Saddle Creek), A White Hunter, Hip Priest (a Fall cover band), and collaborates with Pauline Lay.

<http://www.kernhaug.com/>

Pod Blotz is Suzy Poling, who is also a visual artist working in Detroit, Oakland, and Los Angeles the past twenty years. [Pod Blotz](#) has released music on Chocolate Monk, Dais, Nostilevo, and Bennifer Editions.

<https://podblotz.bandcamp.com/>

Mastering by [Kern Haug](#)

Artwork layout and coloring by Yvonne Chen