



### **THE JUNKMAN®, DONALD KNAACK**

- World-class virtuoso percussionist
- Perfect programs for most all occasions
- Unique, inventive and totally inimitable

Whether its an intimate solo concert in a gallery or 70,000 fans at a festival, The Junkman® rocks! He provides exciting, provocative, and edu-taining offerings that excel in any environment.

**SHORT BIOGRAPHY:** The Junkman®, percussionist/composer, and environmentalist Donald Knaack is the original recycled materials percussionist. He's the Daddy of Eco-Beat, following in the footsteps of his mentor and collaborator, John Cage, by creating music and cutting-edge environmental awareness that transcends all styles and genres. His celebrated concerts and interactive Junkjams® impart timely messages regarding the health of Mother Earth, cultural tolerance, and how our personal behaviour affects other people's personal space and rights.

In his music, The Junkman® fuses the avant-garde with head-moving ear candy and rhythmic muscle to form an irresistible edutainment experience! The Junkman®'s past performances have included The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Sundance Film Festival, Seoul Drum Festival, Escena Contemporanea, Zagreb Biennale, Summer Series Dubai, the United Nations, concerts with Phish, Eminem, The Black Eyed Peas, Blink 182 amongst others. He's composed and toured two critically acclaimed new works for choreographer Twyla Tharp, and works for the American Ballet Theatre, American Dance Festival, Dance Theatre of Harlem, amongst others. His music has appeared in television commercials for The NBA, ESPN, Air BnB, Electronic Arts, Paddle to Live, Power Dot, and Nike-Paris. Recently, his new music supporting Edgar Allan Poe's The Raven, featuring Michael Douglas Jones, was recorded and produced by the rock legend, David Kahne. His

newest composition for Eva Dean Dance was recently premiered in Brooklyn, NY.

The Junkman® has recently been appointed Artistic Education Ambassador for the UNESCO English Riviera Global Geopark. His HOP environmental education program for children has received awards of excellence both in the US and internationally, including an award from the United Nations.

On October 18, 2018, The Junkman® hosted his fifth annual Global Junkjam from the English Riviera Global Geopark in Torquay as he was joined by pupils in Global Geoparks in Germany, New Zealand, Romania, Iran, and China - all via Google Hangouts.. This event was featured on the BBC News: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da5n1w\\_3g3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da5n1w_3g3s)

### **AWARDS:**

- **2020:** SABRE Technical Development Project grant from the European Union Regional Development Fund to design and create a robotic percussion orchestra. This project will be realized by a team of robotics experts from the Bristol Robotics Laboratory in Bristol, UK and Knaack
- **2018:** Appointed Ambassador for Arts Education for the UNESCO English Riviera Global Geopark
- **2017:** Awarded an Exceptional Talent Visa, endorsed by Arts Council England, to live and work in the United Kingdom
- **2010:** Singing for the Planet Award, United Nations and Federal Government of Mexico
- **2008:** Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence
- **2008:** Best Artistic Program, First Night International
- **1998:** Award for Environmental Excellence from the United Nations
- **1997:** Grammy ballot nomination in Best New Classical category

### **PRESS KIT:**

<https://junkmusic.online/wpcontent/uploads/2020/05/PressKit2020.pdf>

**AUDIO SAMPLES:** <https://soundcloud.com/junkmanvt/tracks>

### **VIDEO SAMPLES:**

United Nation's COP 16 Conference on Climate Change  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAHgNxEN1vg>

Built to Fall Apart at Seoul Drum Festival:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y21mWJ4YFe8>

Closing Night Concert - Sundance Film Festival

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zJCFZcLDVo&t=7s>

Styrofoam Never Dies - Seoul Drum Festival

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpegAgLoFR4>

Rock Music - United Nations COP 16 Conference on Climate Change

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLbZ6\\_AXceA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLbZ6_AXceA)

### **JUNKJAM VIDEOS:**

End of Concert Junkjam - Seoul Drum Festival

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_FJXomCN\\_E8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FJXomCN_E8)

Junkjam - Van's Warped Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyyCKwVYT8Q>

BBC Coverage of 2018 Global Junkjam

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da5n1w\\_3g3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da5n1w_3g3s)

### **PLAYSTATION CONSTRUCTION PROCESS:**

Playstation Construction - Tucumcari New Mexico

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOOona4xTJI>

### **RECENT MUSIC VIDEO:**

Litterbug (3:31):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hjTHgDMUj4>

### **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

<http://junkmusic.online/photos/>

### **WEBSITE:**

<http://www.junkmusic.co.uk>

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Sound Cloud: <https://soundcloud.com/junkmanvt/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/junkmanvt/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/junkmusic>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/junkmusic.online/>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/donaldknaack>

**GENRE:** Something a Little Different, Another world, Noise, Avant Garde, Improvisation, Alternative, Eco-beat, Progressive, Experimental, Industrial, Instrumental, World, Art Music, Percussion

**TECH RIDERS:**

<https://junkmusic.online/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/JunkMusic-Tech-Riders.pdf>

**PRESS AND MEDIA REVIEWS:**

- “...a virtuoso percussionist” -- New York Times
- “He’s the Max Roach of the dumpster!” -- Washington Post
- “It’s a mind blowing experience!” -- Conan O’Brien
- “... the legendary percussion virtuoso.”-- Village Voice
- “Virtuoso playing worth hearing.”-- Downbeat
- “Starting with John Cage, there have been quite a few composers who have worked with junk and found objects to create their music. However, no one does it with quite as much finesse as Donald Knaack.” -- Dirty Linen Magazine

Donald Knaack’s score to Surfer at the River Styx was composed for choreographer Twyla Tharp and commissioned by The Kennedy Center and the American Dance Festival. Here are three review excerpts from the performances at Sadler’s Wells in London:

- "The more substantial Surfer at the River Styx is set to a dark, swirling score by Donald Knaack." -- The Independent
- “Donald Knaack’s percussive score drives the dancers almost as hard as Tharp’s ferociously imagined choreography.... It is not only the phenomenal performers who earn this moment of release, but also the rest of us, who have been on the edge of our seats throughout this extraordinary work. -- The Guardian
- "Surfer at the River Styx is a relentless tour de force of sound and movement set to a score of thunderous intensity and exceptional beauty by composer Donald Knaack."-- DanceTabs

**CONTACT:**

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