

JUNK MUSIC™

BIOGRAPHY

As a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, a member of the illustrious Louisville Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic, and a musician under Igor Stravinsky, percussionist & composer, Donald Knaack, is not the sort of man you'd envision wearing a blue denim workshirt, replete with glittering recycling logo, while pounding out hypnotic rhythms on hubcaps, saw blades, and buckets.

Yet, that's what Donald Knaack, better known as The Junkman™, does every time he takes the stage. Inspired by the sounds his mechanic father made while working in the garage, The Junkman™ developed his attraction to the sounds of found objects, finding encouragement and direction from his mentor and collaborator, the legendary John Cage. Before long, and long before the green movement even existed, The Junkman™ was playing exclusively on recycled materials.

Junk Music™ had been born.

Just as The Junkman™ teaches us to be kind to Mother Earth, Junk Music™ has been very kind to The Junkman™, taking him to schools, colleges, theatres, and festivals around the globe, including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The United Nations, Sundance Film Festival, The Van's Warped Tour (where he played with Eminem, Black Eyed Peas, and Blink 182), Seoul Drum Festival, Lemonwheel and The Great Went (where he played with Phish), and Summer Series Dubai.

Junk Music™ has been heard in major television commercials for The NBA, ESPN, and Electronic Arts. The Junkman™ has been featured on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, CBS Sunday Morning, CBS News, National Public Radio, the BBC, Associated Press, and Billboard Magazine. At the United Nation's COP 16 Conference on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico, The Junkman™ received the "Cantando por el Planeta" Award from the Federal Government of Mexico for his HOP (Help Our Planet) Program, an environmental education action plan for schools. The HOP Program also received the Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Looking forward, The Junkman™ recently launched a one-man, multi-media theatrical/musical experience for children and families entitled, "Beat It! with The Junkman™" and is in the process of developing a children's television show about music and the environment.

The Junkman™ celebrates Earth Day every year with a Global Junkjam™ with students and musicians all over the world through Google Plus Hangouts.

REVIEWS

Concert Performances:

Dirty Linen

"Starting with John Cage, there have been quite a few composers who have worked with junk and found objects to create their music. However, nobody does it with quite as much finesse as Donald Knaack."

Conan O'Brien, Late Night with Conan O'Brien (NBC)

"A mind-blowing experience!"

The New York Times

"...a virtuoso percussionist."

Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors

"It really cooked!"

The Village Voice

"...the legendary percussion virtuoso."

Madrid, Spain

"This guy is mad and very popular!"

Guia del Gocio, Madrid, Spain

"The Junkman's music and his instruments are provocative and entirely innovative."

Amazon.com Customer

"It's Stomp on acid!"

Down Beat

"...virtuoso playing worth hearing."

Option

"Music of tremendous power and wide-ranging temperaments."

Jazz Ambassadors Magazine

"The Junkman totally captivated the Kansas City International Jazz Festival audience..."

BRAT Magazine

"...unusual, completely independent and wholly cool!"

Education -

Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

"We can all learn something from this wonderful presentation."

Stratton Arts Festival

The workshops are stimulating and unique. Exposing students to the recycling message that a discarded object can be reborn into a completely new function and using this method to create music is an educational approach that is worthwhile."

Michael J. Peterides School, Staten Island, NY

“Our teachers say this was the best assembly we have ever had!”

Sea Cliff Elementary School

“It was really great! People loved how the kids were so responsive and for many the Junkjam was their favorite part. The music felt very powerful when the whole audience was playing together. Thanks for a great show!”

Dorset Elementary School

“You are a very gifted teacher!”

Mark Skinner Library, Manchester, VT

“Children and grown-ups alike were fascinated!”

Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY

“Not only does Knaack bring out the music in an object, he does the same with people. With his friendly support and cooperation, this event was planned by the Cultural Center and Knaack as a Family Day of conservation-related crafts and music workshops. The Junkman's unpretentious humanitarianism, talents, and simple love for playing percussion provided all at once a great concert, a musically educational experience and a happy day for our Staten Island community.”

DISCOGRAPHY:

- 1966 - 1970: 22 recordings of contemporary music as a percussionist in The Louisville Orchestra – Louisville Orchestra Masterworks/Columbia
- 1974: Percussionist on Rothko Chapel/Morton Feldman - Columbia Records
- 1977: Cage/Duchamp (First Recordings, Solo percussion album) - Atlantic/Finnadar Records
- 1978: Three Constructions of John Cage (The Donald Knaack Percussion Ensemble) - Tomato Records
- 1980: Inside the Plastic Lotus (Duo recording with Peggy Knaack) - Hat Hut Records
- 1982: Dance Music (Solo Recording) - RRRecords
- 1998: Junk Music (Solo recording) - Moo Records
- 2004: Junk Music 2 (Solo recording) - Moo Records
- 2011: Nat Res + Mo Na + Man (Natural Resources + Mother Nature + Man) (The Junkman™ and friends) Moo Records

PHOTOS:

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

CONTACT

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