



Bio information: **ADAM RUDOLPH / GO: ORGANIC GUITAR ORCHESTRA**
Title: ***TURNING TOWARDS THE LIGHT*** (Cuneiform Rune 406) Format: CD / DIGITAL

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FILE UNDER: GUITAR / IMPROV / EXPERIMENTAL / JAZZ / CREATIVE MUSIC

**Winter Solstice Marks the Moment for
Composer & Bandleader Adam Rudolph to
Turn Towards the Light
and Debut his Extraordinary 'Future Orchestra':
the Go: Organic Guitar Orchestra,
an Unprecedented Summit of 11 All-Star Guitarists
Including Nels Cline, Rez Abbasi, Liberty Ellman, Joel Harrison**

On the **Winter Solstice** of 2014 – the Northern Hemisphere's longest night of the year – composer, bandleader & percussionist **Adam Rudolph** convened 11 of New York City's finest and most adventurous guitarists in a New Jersey studio for a most auspicious event: the debut of **Go: Organic Guitar Orchestra**, his all-guitar orchestra. In attendance were guitarists **Rez Abbasi, Nels Cline, Liberty Ellman, David Gilmore, Miles Okazaki, and Marvin Sewell**, all on electric guitars and effects; **Damon Banks** on bass guitar; **Marco Capelli** on acoustic guitar, effects; **Jerome Harris** on electric guitar, electric bass guitar, and lap steel guitar; **Joel Harrison** on electric guitar and national steel guitar; and **Kenny Wessel** on electric guitar and banjo. Rudolph had assembled an all-star orchestra; each of these remarkable guitarists were composers and bandleaders in their own right, with a collective musical experience that spanned a universe of contemporary music, from **Wilco** to **Cassandra Wilson** to **Ornette Coleman** and beyond. The studio's atmosphere on that dark November night was electric. With Rudolph at the helm, an antenna conducting musical charts and creative improvisational energy, the orchestra began to play. The result is this extraordinary release, ***Turning Towards the Light***, the dawn of Rudolph's visionary, all-guitar "**Future Orchestra**" and his first release on DC-based **Cuneiform Records**.

Turning Towards the Light is the 10th release in Adam Rudolph's series of recordings for **Go: Organic Orchestra**, a concept for "new" global/creative orchestra that he began developing in 2001. His previous 9 recordings for Go: Organic Orchestra, released on **Meta Records**, featured an array of instrumentation to bring to life his rhythmically unique creative music. But for *Turning Towards the Light*, Rudolph envisioned a new kind of orchestral sound conveyed by a single instrument: guitars, whose strings, coaxed by the right hands, are capable of unleashing an orchestra of different musical sounds. He says: "I try to do something new with each performance and recording. This time I wanted to experiment with a new kind of orchestration. I felt that with their range of sound and rhythm, these 11 electric guitars could generate a sonic palate that had never been heard before. I was looking for a *new* kind of "Future Orchestra" – and I think we found it."

Rudolph grew up and began playing music on the South Side of Chicago, performing with artists like **Fred Anderson**. By 1978 he was touring Europe with **Don Cherry**. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "a pioneer in world music", in 1977 Rudolph began his collaborations with kora player **Foday Musa Suso**, followed by his work with the Gnawa musician **Hassan Hakmoun, L. Shankar** and other musicians from around the globe. His longest and most significant collaboration was with the great **Yusef Lateef**; from 1988 until Yusef's passing in 2013 they performed as a duet and collaborated as composers on many large ensemble projects. "Even when I started focusing more on my own music projects in the early 1990's, I would always make the time to tour and record with Yusef. I learned so much from him not only about music, but how to live a deeper more spiritual life."

Since 1992, Rudolph's primary outlet for his unique compositional vision has been his **Moving Pictures** ensemble. But in 2001, he founded **Go: Organic Orchestra** to expand his instrumentation. "I had always been interested in the idea of an orchestral concept of world music, and fascinated not only with the sounds but also with the organizing concepts that structure orchestrations from around the world. ...the colotomic structure of Javanese Gamelan or the thematic fibers of a Bantu drum and trumpet orchestra are all valid ways of organizing orchestra. At the same time my approach to orchestra comes out of my work since 1974 in electronic music. With Go: Organic Orchestra, I feel the resonance of iconic electronic music composers such as **Pierre Schaefer, Stockhausen** or **Subotnick**. And of course I am, like many creative musicians today, a student of the great 20th Century composers of the European tradition – **Messiah, Carter, Ligeti, Bartok** and my personal favorite, **Toru Takemitsu**."

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Rudolph has integrated and transformed these influences into a highly personalized language, a language whose rhythmic component, which he calls “**Cyclic Verticalism**,” combines polyrhythms (from African music) and rhythm cycles (from Indian music). Rudolph’s Go: Organic Orchestra has performed worldwide at music festivals and served residencies in such countries as USA, Turkey, Mexico, Italy, Finland, Denmark and Norway.

Rudolph’s process is more egalitarian and community driven than the top down structure of Western orchestra. “My idea is to get the most structural and aesthetic focus from the music with the least amount of reading. I want the musicians to bring their own voice, feeling, and phraseology to the music. In a kind of “de-composing” process, he creates **graphic scores** that consist of what he calls “pure elements” – “**Interval Matrices**,” “**Cosmograms**” and **Ostinatos of Circularity**”. Add to the process Rudolph’s **unique conducting method**. “Through trial and error I have invented my own way of conducting. As with the score, I wanted my conducting to yield as much interpretative range as I could get with the fewest, simplest and clearest gestures possible. I think of my conducting method as being more related to the idea of something that conducts electricity than someone who is always leading. When I begin a concert, I don’t know what is going to happen, how the music will unfold. After my initial gesture, as I hear the first sounds of the orchestra I follow the feelings and ideas of where the music flows. But we are all PREPARED due to deep study of the elements in the score. So the score, the musicians and myself as conductor, we all dialogue in a process which I consider “organic.”

With the **Go: Organic Guitar Orchestra** he moves the idea of what an orchestra can actually BE resolutely into the 21st century. He states: “When you generate new creative processes, the result will be prototypical art.” On *Turning Towards the Light* the 11 guitarists sound in turn like a futuristic string section, percussion group, woodwinds, and brass. Rudolph says that his NOT being a guitarist was an advantage in leading this project. “Since I don’t play guitar, I don’t really think “guitaristically,” I’m thinking compositionally and percussively. Perhaps that led us into some areas we might not have gotten to otherwise. I have to say also that these musicians were so incredible – they were so generous in letting their virtuosity serve the musical moment. They played with so much imagination and soulfulness. I am grateful.”

Go: Organic Guitar Orchestra is a natural evolution for Rudolph’s orchestral vision. The music asks to be heard on its own terms; its unprecedented sounds and formulations invite the listener to set aside their preconceived ideas and expectations. Rudolph adds: “while I was mixing the recording I felt the music itself was so new that it was teaching me HOW to listen to itself. The act of listening to it became a creative activity. I think there are still people who like to engage music that way.”

To celebrate the release of *Turning Towards the Light*, Go: Organic Guitar Orchestra will be playing shows in major cities along the East Coast, in venues including Roulette and Ars Nova. The all-star guitar orchestra is also available for festival bookings worldwide.

For more information on GO: ORGANIC GUITAR ORCHESTRA:

Go: Organic Orchestra webpage at Cuneiform: <http://www.cuneiformrecords.com>

Go: Organic Orchestra webpage: <http://www.metarecords.com/go.html>

Go: Organic Orchestra facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Go-Organic-Orchestra/49249259623?ref=hl>

For more information on ADAM RUDOLPH’S GO: ORGANIC GUITAR ORCHESTRA MEMBERS:

Adam Rudolph (composer, improvisational conductor, and bandleader)

Adam Rudolph webpage: <http://www.metarecords.com/adam.html>

Adam Rudolph facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/adam.rudolph.33>

Adam Rudolph bandcamp: <https://adamrudolph.bandcamp.com/>

Adam Rudolph You tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkmhSHiqenzhty3VAO_8e_A

Rez Abbasi (electric guitar and effects) - <http://www.reztone.com/>

Damon Banks (electric bass guitar) - <http://damonbanks.net/>

Marco Capelli (acoustic guitar, effects) - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marco-Cappelli/124362359461>

Nels Cline (electric guitar and effects) - <http://nelscline.com/>

Liberty Ellman (electric guitar and effects) - <http://www.libertyellman.com/>

David Gilmore (electric guitar and effects) - <http://www.davidgilmore.net/>

Joel Harrison (electric guitar, national steel guitar and effects) - <http://joelharrison.com/>

Jerome Harris (electric guitar, bass guitar, lap steel guitar and effects) - <http://www.jeromeharris.com/>

Miles Okazaki (electric guitar and effects) - <http://www.milesokazaki.com/>

Marvin Sewell (electric guitar and effects) - <http://marvinsewell.com/>

Kenny Wessel (electric guitar, banjo and effects) - <http://www.kenwessel.com/>

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS

Digital [High-Resolution] versions of these images are available for download on the **Adam Rudolph** artist page @ www.cuneiformrecords.com



WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT ADAM RUDOLPH'S GO: ORGANIC ORCHESTRA

"I loved every minute of it." - Marc Meyers, *Wall Street Journal*

"The music was poetry and elegance together with extraordinary power" – *All About Jazz Italia*

"Adam Rudolph is percussion master, composer, arranger, and producer.... the music world should sit up and take notice of this man as a front line composer, bandleader, and arranger"
- Thom Jurek, *All Music Guide*

The New York City Jazz Record selected *SONIC MANDALA* as one the top 5 "Best Large Ensemble Releases" of 2013

CONCERT REVIEWS

"This was certainly one of the year's most ecstatic performances —in any city, any festival, anywhere."
- Martin Longely, *All About Jazz*

"The evening was brilliant and engaging." - Stefano Valanzuolo, *Il Mattino*, Naples

"I caught a performance Go: Organic Orchestra down in SoHo last spring and was **swept away by what they were doing. It was fascinating and ahead of its time, in the best possible way.** I loved every minute of it."
- Marc Meyers, *Jazzwax.com*

"Of the 10+ times I attended at Roulette, every time **was absolutely magical and distinct, yet sublimely unified and delicately cohesive.**"
- Charles Blass, *Sun Radio*, Switzerland

"The music was **poetry and elegance together with extraordinary power**" - Francesca Odillia Bellino, *All About Jazz Italia*

"I was fortunate to have attended two nights with Adam Rudolph's Go: Organic Orchestra at Roulette a few months back and was **blown away by Adam's distinctive blend of jazz and world music** as well as his conducting."
- Bruce Lee Gallanter, *Downtown Music Gallery*

"The music, performed by a large ensemble of wind and percussion players, rose like vines from hand drummer Adam Rudolph's written instructions and hand signals. **And it truly is organic -- a blend of gentle sustained dissonance, heaven-crashing rhythm jams, and individual improvisations. No joke: a startling and involving development in roots music, with more to follow.**"
- Greg Burk, *LA Weekly*

"This **mixture of planning and spontaneity is brought to life with such a high level of musicality** that the **"organic"** part of the group's name is always honored."
- Steve Holtje, *The Big Takeover*

"Extraordinary.... the audience was absolutely absorbed." - Howard Mandel, *Jazz beyond Jazz*