TILTED AXES: Music for Mobile Electric Guitars

“I’ve lived in the neighborhood for 22 years and I’ve never seen anything like this…!” - The New York Times

"...an urban musical procession: a one-of-a-kind combination of theater, street performance, and contemporary new music." - Forum Fries Theater, Germany

"The pioneer of the electric guitar procession..." - The Metro Times, Detroit

"Like a group of psychedelic Pied Pipers..." - The Villager

"These dudes rock out!" - Robert Fripp of King Crimson, David Bowie, Brian Eno - England, UK

Combining the energy of rock, the creative discipline of theater, and the experimental spirit of the downtown NYC arts scene, Tilted Axes is both a processional event, and an ensemble of mobile electric guitarists created by composer/performer Patrick Grant.

Inspired by his background in gamelan music and vanguard theater work, classically-trained post-rocker Grant conceived of Tilted Axes in 2011 as part of Make Music Winter, an event which transforms New York’s cityscape with participatory musical parades in honor of the winter solstice. Tilted Axes was a way of untethering the electric guitar from both heavy stage amps and traditional band structures, as well as bringing live music directly to its audience.

The guitarists of Tilted Axes perform original compositions
written specifically for the event by Grant as well as those from the Tilted repertoire, using portable amplifiers strapped to their sides as they walk through the city streets. The outdoor procession of musicians moves along predetermined routes in selected areas, in honor of an event, landmark, or organization unique to that community.

Since its inception, Tilted Axes has evolved as a project with multiple incarnations in New York, Detroit, and Düsseldorf, Germany. In 2015 the project will manifest itself in performances in the USA, Europe, and South America.

The musical pieces themselves, with their interlocking sections, make room for many kinds of genres and grooves. A democratic approach to interpretation allows the musicians - soloists, rhythm players, and percussionists - to shine in an ensemble of uncommon textural power. Flexible in number, Tilted Axes adapts itself to the environment or occasion, and feeds on the energy of a constantly shifting audience.

Tilted Axes cuts musical pathways through the urban landscape, turning neighborhoods into sonic narratives. As a form of street theater, the ensemble brings potent, ecstatic riffs, and an element of surprise, to an unsuspecting public. Tilted Axes is always in motion; striding in, rocking out, and moving on.

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Tilted Axes: Music for Mobile Electric Guitars
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http://www.tiltedaxes.com/tiltedaxes.html
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PRESS QUOTES about Patrick Grant’s music - Tilted Axes and beyond


“It doesn’t matter whether this music is post-Minimalist, indie classical, or not classical at all... style and even genre are increasingly meaningless now, so abandon the categorizing impulse and just listen.” - The Wall Street Journal

“If Bach grew up playing the electric guitar and listening to Led Zeppelin and Mahavishnu Orchestra, he might have sounded like Patrick Grant.” - The Huffington Post

“Grant’s distinct sound has "...a driving and rather harsh energy redolent of rock, as well as a clean sense of melodicism ... the music's momentum and intricate cross-rhythms rarely let up, making the occasional infectious tunes that emerge all the more beautiful for surprise." - The Village Voice

“With roots in the classical and theatre world, guitarist Patrick Grant collaborated with Robert Fripp in his Orchestra Of Crafty Guitarists, and his own project is cut from similar avant-garde cloth. The approach is post-modern and smacks of experimental theatre, but the music's excellent and only arty in the most complimentary sense.” - PROG Magazine

“Every once in a while, someone comes out with an extraordinary way to use their talents... Patrick Grant, has found a way to combine street theater, rock music and an experimental ensemble and turned it into something quite magical.” - Artist View

“...it’s an unexpected pleasure with music that stands out and no histrionics from the players, just a great performance and songs that are actually catchy and interesting, and worth hearing over and over again.” - New Noise Magazine

“Grant has put together a varied album with a range of genres and styles explored, from rock to prog and classical to world music... the album is constantly evolving and shifting.” - 11 is Louder Than 10

“There’s moments where Grant demonstrates the diverse musical influences on his compositions... where the guitars almost sound like they’re playing the parts usually reserved for orchestral strings... unmistakable signs of the gamelan influence, with intricate, rhythmical parts weaving around each other.” - CMUSE Classical Music is Everywhere

“Only classical compositions and that kind of inter-related album architecture could pull together elements of rock, world, and techno into a cohesive whole that goes beyond mere pastiche and that is integrated into its core.” – Echoes and Dust, UK

“Grant...has a brilliant baroque madness...blending together progressive, classical, and indie music to demonstrate his sweeping vision.” – Alternative Nation

“(it’s) a fascinating merger of the universes that Grant inhabits...there is a lot to be said for the energy Grant and his ensemble bring to these pieces, but the collection’s real joy is it’s variety.” - San Francisco Classical Voice

“...a cogent ambient atmosphere in combination with classical and contemporary components...eccentrically sublime, emanating bright sonic colors.” - The Huffington Post