

Dapp Theory • Bio Release

***"The idea behind Dapp Theory is to create complete musical compositions that groove as hard as they express melodic and poetic lyricism."*— Andy Milne**



About Dapp Theory

- Dapp Theory is a quintet that blends *"contemporary funk, groove and hip-hop into jazz with such seamless, casual precision it's almost freaky."* (LA Weekly) Recipient of Chamber Music America's *New Works* commission, *French-America Jazz Exchange* award, and voted "Rising Star Keyboardist" by *Down Beat Magazine*, leader, pianist/composer, **Andy Milne** is one of the most important and respected voices in jazz today. With Dapp Theory, Milne combines the talents of percussive poet **John Moon**, saxophonist **Aaron Kruziki**, bassist **Chris Tordini** and drummer **Kenny Grohowski**, collectively helping to re-draw and extend the boundaries of jazz. *Jazz Times Magazine* describes the band's *"remarkable chemistry . . . [as] . . . so impeccable, it's practically a musical Unified Field Theory"*.

Milne formed the band in 1998 as a vehicle to *"tell passionate stories, promote peace and inspire collective responsibility towards uplifting the human spiritual condition."* Since then, the band has evolved and built a loyal following, in large part due to their commitment to grass-roots touring, an ideology more often associated with indie rock bands. Dapp Theory's style is indefinable yet highly recognizable, blending influences ranging from Joni Mitchell and KRS One to Thelonious Monk and Van Halen. Their first major label CD, *Y'all Just Don't Know* [**Concord Records**], released in 2003 included an ambitious collaboration with folk-rock icon **Bruce Cockburn**. Their current release, *Layers of Chance* [**ObliqSound/Contrology**], released in 2008, features fresh compositions by Milne that blend various instrumental textures, infectious grooves, layered with lush harmonies and poignant lyrics.

Musician Bios

- Pianist/keyboardist **Andy Milne** has toured and recorded with **Ravi Coltrane, Ralph Alessi, Carlos Ward** and **Carla Cook** and has collaborated with a range of artists including **Sekou Sundiata, Avery Brooks, Bruce Cockburn, Geri Allen,** and **Dianne Reeves**. During the 1990s, Milne was at the center of the M-BASE collective, collaborating extensively with saxophonist **Steve Coleman**, as well as with **Cassandra Wilson** and **Greg Osby**. Before moving to New York in 1991, Milne spent a year in Montreal, picking up valuable sideman experience with **Sonny Greenwich, Joe Lovano, Archie Shepp,** and **Ranee Lee**. Often compared to innovators like **Herbie Hancock** and **McCoy Tyner**, Milne is considered one of the most respected voices in jazz today.

In addition to Dapp Theory, he composes for multiple projects in which he is a principle performer and improviser. His music spans everything from contrapuntal, odd-metered grooves, free improvisation, and multi-form structures, to an orchestral-inspired pallet and prepared piano textures. Awarded The 2009 **Civitella Fellowship** to compose a new orchestral work, Milne is a 2010 **PennPAT** roster member and the recipient of numerous commissions from **Chamber Music America**.

- Saxophonist **Aaron Kruziki** was raised in Wisconsin and after graduating from the prestigious New England Conservatory in 2008, moved to New York City. Raised in a family of teachers and artists, he began piano studies at an early age and switched to saxophone at the age of 12, after discovering his father's horn. Initially inspired by the sounds of barbershop and sacred music, Kruziki's approach also blends the French classical school with the concepts of improvisers **George Garzone** and **Ran Blake**. Kruziki has toured throughout North Africa with a group he co-led with violinist **Armenuhi Kehkeyan**. He has also performed in Norway, Luxembourg, Tunisia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, and throughout US.
- Vocalist/percussive poet/MC **John Moon** uses sound and visuals to change the way people interpret what they hear. Inspired equally by Salvador Dali and Ornette Coleman, he spits rhymes of collage; half painter, half poet. A graduate of DC's Duke Ellington High School for the Arts, Moon has shared his experiments with sound in performance with the **Free Style Union, Amphibians Collective** and the **Avant-God Vi_lence**. He regards the "*current state of despair in the world*" as his ultimate inspiration for creating beauty in the world.
- At 26 years of age, bassist **Chris Tordini** is rapidly becoming an in-demand bassist in New York's creative music community. He graduated from the New School University in May 2006 and soon after was asked to join Dapp Theory and perform on the new CD, *Layers of Chance*. While attending school, Tordini performed professionally with a number of his teachers, including **Rory Stuart, Ari Hoenic, George Garzone,** and **Andy Milne**. He has also performed with some of today's most compelling musicians, including **Dafnis Prieto, Mark Shim, John Ellis,** and **Rich Perry**. Tordini performs frequently with other

talented, like-minded young musicians like Mike Pinto, Tommy Crane, Logan Richardson, Frank Locrasto, Greg Ruggiero, Collin Killalea, Tyshawn Sorey, and Becca Stevens, all of whom lead their own bands and are determined to make their mark.

- Brought up in a musical household in Miami, 28-year-old drummer, **Kenny Grohowski** has been performing since the age of 14. His rich musical background is demonstrated through the growing list of his collaborators, including **Vernon Reid**, Peter Cincotti, Bobby Sanabria, Bill T. Jones, Rory Stuart, Cassandra Wilson, Richie Ray & **Bobby Cruz**, Giovanni Hidalgo, John Benitez, Domingo Quinones, and Bobby Valentin. Grohowski has been a member of bassist **Lonnie Plaxico**'s band since 2003 and performed in the 2007 Latin Grammy Awards with the award winning group **RBD**. He has appeared on several recordings, including Plaxico's hit *So Alive* [Sony, Japan].

Grohowski is also a composer and member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's Young Composers Symposium Development Program, who premiered his string quartet in 2005. **The New York Times** praised the piece as "*insightfully combined dark Shostakovich-like harmonies with an edgy rhythmic drive.*" He is currently working on a solo CD *Second Last Minute*, which blends a multitude of influences ranging from Weather Report, Allan Holdsworth, Meshuggah, Miles Davis, Gonzalo Rubalcaba NS Brand X. Grohowski is currently endorsed by Latin Percussion and Factory Metal Percussion.

Contact:

Bookings	Promotion	
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