

## *Trans-Classical Music*

# SWARMIOUS

A SONIC FUSION OF CLASSICAL MEETS WORLD BEAT-TECHNO-HIP-HOP

*"What Kind Of Music Would Mozart Make If He Were Alive Today?"*

**Genre:** Trans-Classical/ Avant-Pop — catchy hooks, soaring melodies & multi-level syncopations that draw from rock, jazz, the Yoruba music of Nigeria, Eastern European Klezmer, Indonesian gamelan, electronica, hip-hop, vaudeville, European classical and more.

**Sounds like:** SWARMIOUS embraces the open-ended, freewheeling aesthetic that characterizes The Kronos Quartet, Björk, Radio Head, Bela Fleck, Gershwin & Golijov.

Since their 2006 debut at Kosovel Hall in Ljubljana, Slovenia, SWARMIOUS has thrilled audiences and critics around the world, pushing musical boundaries with compositions that merge African, Latin & Middel-Eastern "grooves" with rock, hip-hop & the harmony and melody of classical.

SWARMIOUS has an international following that includes Ireland, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

### **Reviews:**

"... marvelous, orchestrally conceived music [with] driving pulses, exotic timbres, violin concerto pyrotechnics and on from there. Combines industrial, modern classical, world influenced music and a bunch of other things for a mix that has its own trajectory. SWARMIOUS defies categorization."

— *Gaplegate Music Review*

"It is Moby gone over to a dark side, where Yoko Ono is the Dungeon Master and Brian Eno keeps score."

— *The San Diego Reader*

"ravishingly beautiful..."

— *Paris Transatlantic Magazine*

"Dizzying, multi-genre-leaping work — [a] shape-shifting synthesis — simultaneously exotic and familiar, intricate and inviting — should delight listeners with an appetite for edgy aural adventure — the ultimate mash-up for hipsters — draws from jazz, the Yoruba music of Nigeria, Eastern European klezmer, Indonesian gamelan, electronica, hip-hop, vaudeville, avant garde, and more. One of the most appealing qualities is how well it mixes acoustic instruments (violin, saxophone and vibraphone), with laptop computers ...some of the most enjoyable cutting-edge music I've heard in quite a while."

— *San Diego Union Tribune*

"...The music is intense, crammed with dramatic crescendos followed by abrupt pauses. ... gorgeous, but undefinable."  
— *San Diego City Beat*

## **Bio:**

SWARMIOUS' fusion is the result of each musician's unique backgrounds and influences.

**saxophone** (Todd Rewoldt) — As teenager **SAXIMUS** was a sponsored skateboard champ & punk bassist, who, after blowing out his knees on the half-pipe, dedicated his daring & fury to music, and claimed his doctorate in saxophone from the Eastman School of Music at age 26.

His experiences as competitive skateboarder shaped his attitude toward music: *"You have to go for it. If you're speeding across a parking lot, about to 360 flip down a set of 15 stairs, you have a choice to make: either pull the trick or end up bloody as hell."* This is the mindset of SWARMIOUS.

**violin** (Felix Olschofka) — **Fiddlus El Gato** began playing the violin at the age of five, winning numerous competitions, recording at the age of fourteen and playing for the president of Germany before he was twenty. A quintessential violinist for the 21st century, he tours internationally as classical soloist and featured chamber musician, and plays everything between classical and funk with SWARMIOUS.

**percussion I** (Joel Bluestone) — **Crotalius Redfoot** was tapping things before he could walk, & maintains an arsenal of unusual drums, rattles, shakers and unnameable percussion oddities collected on his world-ranging music-making journeys. Says Crotalius, who also holds a doctorate in classical percussion, *"At heart I'm just a kid with two sticks who likes to rock and extract sound from anything that does not protest too loudly."* His unique flair provides SWARMIOUS with a blast of rhythmic color."

**percussion II** (Justin Dehart) **Justinius Lion Heart** has made three trips to India to channel the groove of tabla with Indian masters, and combines this with drum set to elucidate the complex hidden rooms and underground passageways in SWARMIOUS's music...

**laptop/composer** (Joseph Martin Waters) — **Jozefius Vaatierz Rattus** grew up playing in rock bands, honed his composition chops at Yale and conjures a musical brew that juxtaposes hip-hop and Beethoven.

*"We live in a time where the entire globe is listening to each other — all cultures, all of our accumulated history — our myths, hopes, fears & dreams are all online — we face each other every minute — How do you speak to that, as an artist?"*

*"It's about connecting with people of all ages and tastes — is that possible — or even desirable?"*

*We believe it is possible and even critical — by building bridges, connections, finding common ground, finding the universals. Making music truly a universal language.*

*You've got to listen, allow yourself to be vulnerable, and take risks, on stage and in the studio....or you're not saying anything worthwhile..." says Jozefius (aka Joseph Waters) the band's composer and laptopist.*

*"SWARMIOUS is the result."*

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