



The alien trio formation of Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica

Bio

Contact: Brian O'Neill (brian@orchestrotica.com)
1.347.482.1775 (w) • 1.617.905.9660 (m)

Short Bio

Czarna Wolgastar is the intergalactic balkan surf jazz arm of Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica. Whenever the space ship Wolgastar 1 returns to Earth, three non-corporeal Wolgastarian entities embody three members of the Orchestrotica's quintet formation: Tev Stevig (guitar), Michael Harrist (bass), and Brian O'Neill (drums). Together, the trio – or sextet, depending on how you think of it – release a strange, other-worldly cocktail of Balkan beats and Milky-Way mischief crossed with the American songbook, Hollywood film soundtracks, and more. The group has been presented by the Celebrity Series of Boston, the Sheldon Theatre, and on multiple interstellar internet livestreams. Launched in 2020, the trio is the newest format of the eclectic instrumental group, Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica known for its modern exotica and global jazz quintet, and the world's only Esquivel Megaband playing the lost space-age pop of Juan Garcia Esquivel.

Sounds Like:

Bill Frisell plays dark Americana, surf, Spaghetti Westerns, 007, and Hollywood hits in Balkan, Greek, and Turkish rhythms such as 7/8, 11/8, and 10/8.

Special Artistic Note from the Wolgastarians

(approx. Wolgastarian → English Translation):

Czarna Wolgastar is world's only Wolgastarian surf rock trio in whole of Milky Way land. After visiting planet Earth land while touring big galaxy, their spaceboard, Wolgastar I, crashed on beach Albania close by. Stuck like a tape on earthland, the group now travels the Balkan sand and water ways, picking up surfing, fast picking, and music traditions of countries on journey, as they search for gasoline to take ship in the empty space black. Should you encounter big big ship or their music, under never no circumstances attempt to board Wolgastar I or record their music. Czarna Wolga is not toy, listened to on recorded media, or performance at home. Czarna Wolga never forgets!

(Want the Wolgastarian translation? Visit cwtrio.com !)

Presenter Testimonial:

"Czarna Wolgastar's unique approach to Jazz elevated our event and showcased the diversity of the genre. Attendees really enjoyed their style and interpretations of the set list. They were a pleasure to work with!"

*Elizabeth Kracunas, Sr. Mgr. Performance Operations
Celebrity Series of Boston*

Tour History

Select highlights from our 3 formations.

Most are quintet unless noted (T) for Czarna Wolgastar Trio or (M) for Esquivel Megaband.

2024:

- Artesia Arts Council (Artesia, NM)
- Bowlus Fine Arts Center (Iola, KS)

2023:

- Celebrity Series "Jazz on the Charles" (Boston, MA) (T)
- Norton Museum (West Palm Beach FL)
- New Bern Civic Theatre (New Bern, NC)
- Tybee Post Theater (Tybee Island, GA)
- The Century Room (Tucson, AZ)
- Doña Ana Arts Council/Rio Grande Theatre (Las Cruces, NM)

2022 and Earlier:

- Bank of NH Stage @ Capitol Center for the Arts (Concord, NH)
- Sheldon Theatre - Remote Livestream (MN) (T)
- South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (Cutler Bay, FL)
- The Hukilau Festival (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
- Venice PAC / Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota (Venice, FL)
- Center For Performing Arts Bonita Springs (Bonita Springs, FL)
- Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI)
- New Music Edmonton (Edmonton, AB)
- Huntington Summer Arts Festival (Huntington, NY)
- Lied Center (Lawrence, KS)
- Musical Instrument Museum Theatre (Phoenix, AZ)
- Huntington Summer Arts Fest (Huntington, NY)
- Horizon Concert Series (Flagstaff, AZ)
- Montreal Jazz Festival @ Main Stage (Canada) (M)
- Wassermusik Festival @ Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin) (M)
- Pace Presents / Celebrate Mexico Now Festival (NYC) (M)
- Levitt Pavillion Steelstacks (PA) (M)
- Taliesin West/Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture (AZ)
- Le Poisson Rouge (NYC) (M)
- Festival de Mexico @ Teatro de la Ciudad (Mexico City) (M)
- Festival Internacional de Nuevos Vientos Ecatepec (Mexico) (M)

Quintet & Trio Testimonials

Because...isn't what everyone else says about you more informative? ;-)



We had a wonderful turnout with 90% of our survey respondents giving the concert the top rating....an exciting, unique group, and the audience really loved the music as well as all the background the group gave from the stage about the instruments and repertoire...professional from start to finish, and I appreciate how engaged Brian was in promoting the concert and providing us with press coverage, video, and social media assets we could use in our marketing. We'd definitely consider having them back in the future.

Glenn Tomlinson • Norton Museum of Arts (West Palm Beach, FL)



...everyone who came to the concert loved it! I really like how the quintet integrates storytelling about their music and instruments into their student outreach and performance—it really made the music engaging beyond what you hear on the recordings. Students left the hall “perked up” and not like “oh, that was boring!”...Even my father-in-law liked it after saying he wasn't sure he would! We even had people from four hours away drive in to see the show, and the patrons loved how the guys spent time talking to them.... I definitely would recommend them to other PACs!

Kandese Green • Artesia Arts Council (Artesia, NM)



This quintet is an experience—their concert was fantastic! Several of my board members commented how unique it was, and one said they couldn't believe how Brian's brain worked to overlap all the different styles! If you have the space, I highly recommend listening to them acoustically. Communication with Brian was also excellent from booking through the concert. Marketing materials were readily available in multiple formats. I'd absolutely recommend them!

Daniel Kays • Bowlus Fine Arts Center (Iola, KS)

No photo

At first, we had concerns about both the name of the group, and while they explore the whole 'exotica' genre in a unique and modern context, we still had to have some internal discussion... By the end of the concert, our audience had given them a standing ovation, with some calling it 'a blast; they're terrific presenters with excellent musicianship.' ...a pleasure to work with, had ample and comprehensive marketing materials ready to go... thorough and responsive throughout. I'd definitely recommend the group, particularly to presenters in academic settings.

Sheree Owens • Capitol Center for the Arts (Concord, NH)



Thank you for a wonderful performance. The music was delightful, different, mesmerizing and exquisitely entertaining; the playing was masterful! ... pleasure to work with.

John Chicherio • Huntington Arts Council (NY)



It was clear many in attendance were mesmerized by the experience of excellent musicians playing multiple instruments at a masterful level. The Orchestrotica's quintet is a unique ensemble of the highest caliber with a global perspective that I think academic presenters would very much appreciate.

Michael Taheney • Exec. Dir. • New Bern Civic Theatre (NC)



(Trio) We were certainly intrigued when we read Czarna Wolgastar's application for Jazz Along the Charles! [They] stood out in a sea of over 100 applications. Their unique approach to Jazz elevated the event and showcased the diversity of the genre. Attendees really enjoyed their style and interpretations of the set list. They were a pleasure to work !

Elizabeth Kracunas • Sr. Mgr. Performance Operations @ Celebrity Series of Boston



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Technical + Production Rider

Contact: Brian O'Neill (brian@orchestrotica.com)
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Please advance 4-6 weeks prior to concert.

Sound, Mix Position, Stage Power & Engineer Reqs.

- ~8-channel mixer, mics, cables, and stands *as specified in stage plot*
- Monitor System (3 wedges)
- Unless Artist is traveling with engineer, venue supplies professional audio engineer to monitor on-stage monitor mix and FOH. FOH placement at engineer's discretion.
- (2x) 15 amp, 110 volt quad-boxes (Edison plug) @ stage left + @ stage center
- FOH mix position at engineer's discretion

Stage Reqs

- Pref. 26' wide x 14' deep; smaller spaces can be accommodated.
- Optional (1x) 8'x8'x8" riser for drumset. No pyro or stick tricks, we promise.

Lighting + Video/Projection

- For small venues, standard stage lighting is acceptable. No special lighting reqs.
- Venue must provide a Lighting Technician/Operator if using lighting system
- Optional: black-out at the beginning & end of each performance set. Any washes used should be teal in color.
- Optional: An introductory animated alien video can kick off the performance and artist can provide alien graphics for projection behind artist

Local Crew and Venue Setup

- One (1) able-bodied member of local will be on hand at arrival, and during performance to assist with setup/teardown/loading of backline and artist gear.
- All sound equipment will be set up per the provided stage-plot diagram 30 minutes prior to the sound check (to be advanced).

Transportation

- Air: (3-4) round-trip tickets with priority check-in, (3) checked bags, main cabin, max (1) stopover. 4th ticket is for traveling sound engineer/road manager (confirm with artist)



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engineer will be traveling).

- Typically, artist will provide all ground transportation. Confirm with artist.

Hotel Accommodations

- Typically: (3-4) single king/queen rooms for (2) nights in a minimum 3-star hotel. Check with artist: may need only (1) night + (3) rooms pending engineer involvement and schedule.
- Marriott or IHG properties providing complimentary breakfast are preferable.

Venue Accommodations & Hospitality

- Pref. (1) male dressing room with clean towels, full-length mirror, clothing rack, and iron and ironing board, or steamer.
- Bathroom: dressing room should be near a private bathroom w/ hot water.
- Hospitality: *Example* food might include from the following: mixed greens, balsamic/olive oil dressing, grape leaves, hummus, unflavored Greek yogurt, falafel wraps. Sandwiches: ham, turkey, cheese, bread(s), pasta salads, crudité, berry mixes (strawberry, raspberry, blackberry etc), bags of plain potato chips, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, mayo and spicy mustard). Drinks: coffee, hot tea, regular sodas, sparkling and still bottled water appreciated. Cups, plates, napkins, utensils. Please err on the side of "too little" to avoid food waste.
- (3) Bottles of water on stage
- All items above should be ready and available for group upon load-in.
- Catered dinner for (3-4 people) available 90-120 mins before concert downbeat. Ideas: Pizza (pepperoni / mushroom / garlic / onion / pepper / sausage) & garden salad with hospitality drinks; Thai (mixed noodle/rice/veg dishes); Middle-eastern mixed-plates / kabobs / rice. Buyout ok, if menus + delivery available to artist on-site. Please err on the side of "too little" to avoid food waste.
- Outdoor shows must be fully covered from inclement weather and sun.

Merch Table

- (1) standard-size 72"x30" folding table, ideally with a white or black dropcloth that reaches the floor. Table should be in a well-lit area, near the front-doors of the venue.
- (1) powered power strip + Wi-Fi access near table appreciated.
- (1) adult volunteer or staff member capable of taking cash and credit card orders with a provided mobile phone (supplied by Artist)



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Backline

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Drum Set

- 1 x 5-pc all maple "jazz" kit, 18" kick, 12" rack tom, 14" + 16" floor toms, 14"x4" or 14"x5" snare. DW, Pearl, Yamaha, or similar preferred.
- Hardware: 3 x boom cymbal stands w/ felts and working tilters/clamps; 1 x high hat stand; 1 x foot pedal (DW 5000 or similar - chain drive); 1 x throne with lumbar/back support
- 1 x rug/carpet
- Cymbals: *Confirm with artist - artist usually will provide.* If not, K Zildjian, Istanbul, or similar "jazz" styles including 14" hi hats, 18" crash, 20" ride, 17" crash

Acoustic Bass

- 1 x upright 4-string bass (carved)—NOT PLYWOOD—with pickup (preferably Realist or Full Circle). Should have adjustable bridge and Evah Pirazzi strings no more than three years old. (Alt. strings: Thomastick Spirocore, Belcanto, Obbligato, or D'Addario jazz)
- 1 x Acoustic Image 2-channel amp (Ten2 Combo, Clarus, or Coda models). Acceptable alternatives: Gallien Krueger MB150 or SWR amp, min. 150 watts, with XLR out for DI
- 1 x ¼" cables (10' long)

Guitar

- *Confirm with artist - artist may provide.* 1 x Fender Jazzmaster w/ working tremolo bar. Setup preference: .011s D'addario XL strings preferred, action as low as possible w/o buzz and even throughout
- 1 x Fender Twin or Deluxe Reverb amp
- 3 x ¼" cables, each 16' long
- 1 x power strip
- 1 x guitar stand

Misc. Items

- 3 x Manhasset-style flat-back music stands with tight/stiff trays - see plot



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Outreach/Education Programs 1-Sheet

Contact: Brian O'Neill (brian@orchestrotica.com) • 1.347.482.1775 (w)

For more details, visit: orchestrotica.com/edu-programs

Uneven Waves: The Balkan Surf Sound

Ages 10+

Balkan music meets....American surf...and jazz? How does it fit together? With lots of 2s and 3s! Go behind the rhythmic scenes with the alien and human members of Czarna Wolgastar to learn how the trio combines it all together. Attendees will learn to clap and keep the beat to some of the grooves and how an urban legend surrounding the infamous "Czarna Wolga" birthed the trio. 45 mins + Q/A. Full band.

Turkish Makam and Music of the Middle East

Ages 12+

An introduction for Western musicians to the modal music traditions of the Middle East through demonstration, discussion and participation. 1hr. and 3hr formats. Taught by Mike and Tev.

Music Fundamentals through Modal Singing

Ages 5-Adult (multiple class options)

An experience-based investigation into the fundamentals of music through the most ancient instrument, the human voice. 1hr. and 3hr formats. Taught by Mike.

Developing a Personal Artistic Identity and Career

College/University Music Majors

For ambitious students seeking to pursue a career in music. Attendees will learn to get themselves or their ensembles booked, practical sales and marketing skills for leaders, & startup thinking. Taught by Brian.

2s and 3s: The Balkan Beat Generator

Grades 4-8 / Jr. High / HS / 18+ Adults

Rhythm workshop! Ensemble members will give an interactive demonstration of how using combinations of 2 and 3-beat groupings create the "Balkan feel." We relate this to dancing, give kids chance to generate their own new "rhythms," and help them understand why these rhythms often sound "foreign" to Western ears. Full band.

A Tambourine Tour of the World

Grades 4-8 / Jr. High / HS / College / Adult

Artistic Director, Brian O'Neill, will give a lecture/demonstration of the rhythms and playing styles of global tambourines including the *pandeiro*, *riq*, and *tamburello* and styles from 6 global traditions. 1hr.

North Indian Raga

Ages 12+ / 25 max

A hands-on journey into the world of Raga via the Baba Allaudin Khan tradition. Students will learn via traditional methodologies in which playing and repeating is heavily favored over explanation or theory. Taught by Mike.

Private Lessons w/ Mike and Tev

Ages 8+

Acoustic bass, guitar. Possibly available as well: Turkish *ney*, North Indian Raga, guitar, Turkish *oud*, banjo, ukelele, clawhammer, cumbus.





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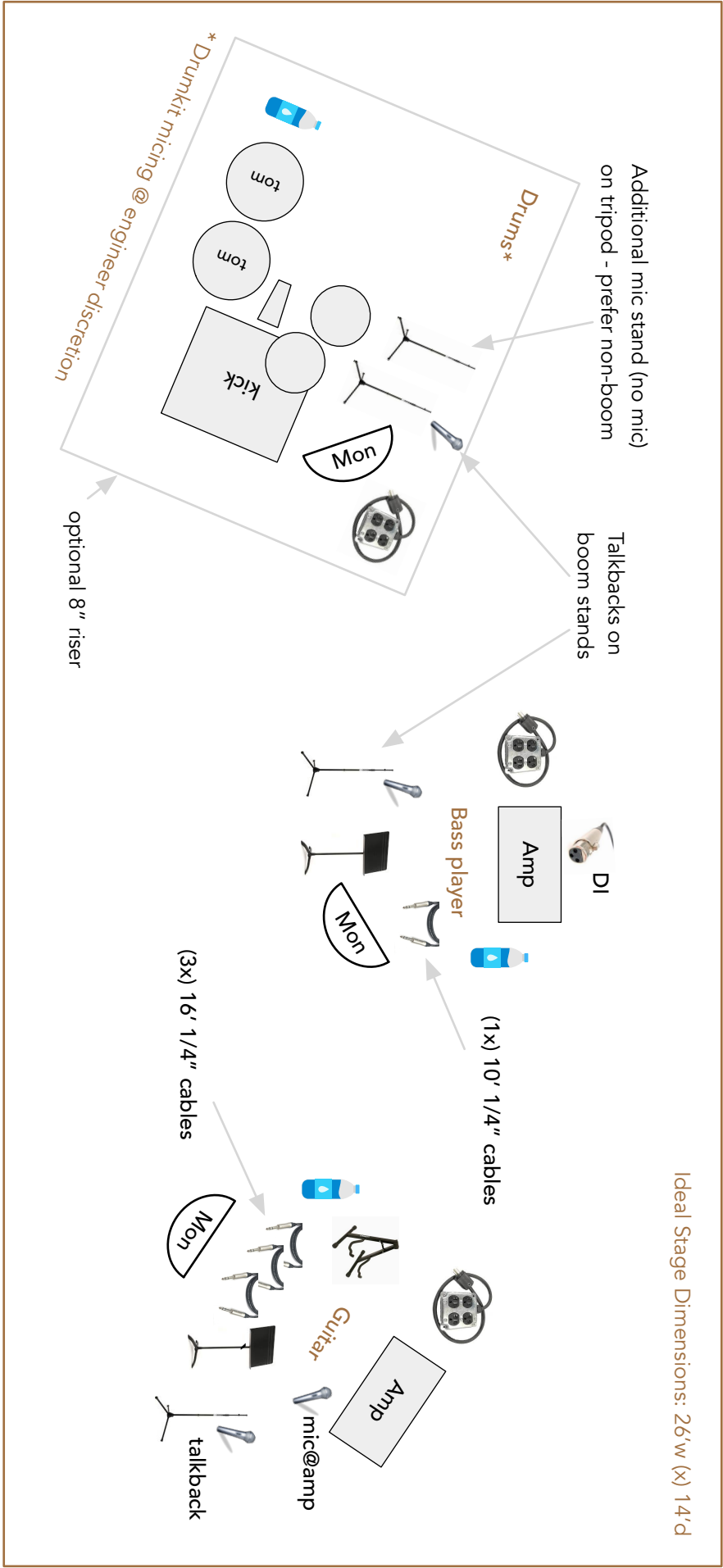
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CZARNA WOLGASTAR Trio stage plot



AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE
AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE	AUDIENCE