

# SOUND MOVES

WHERE MUSIC MEETS CHESS

**DIZZY  
GILLESPIE**

**THE  
EVERLY  
BROTHERS**

**FROM THE WU TANG CLAN  
RZA**

**RAY THE GENIUS  
CHARLES**

**SAINT LOUIS' OWN  
CHUCK  
BERRY**

**CHESS CONCEPTUAL ARTIST  
JUGA**

**KATY  
PERRY**

**CONDUCTOR  
COMPOSER  
PIANIST  
SERGEI  
PROKOFIEV**

**WILLIE  
NELSON**

**JOHN LENNON  
& YOKO ONO**

**★★ DAVID ★★  
BOWIE**

**FROM THE BIG EASY  
CHARLIE GABRIEL**

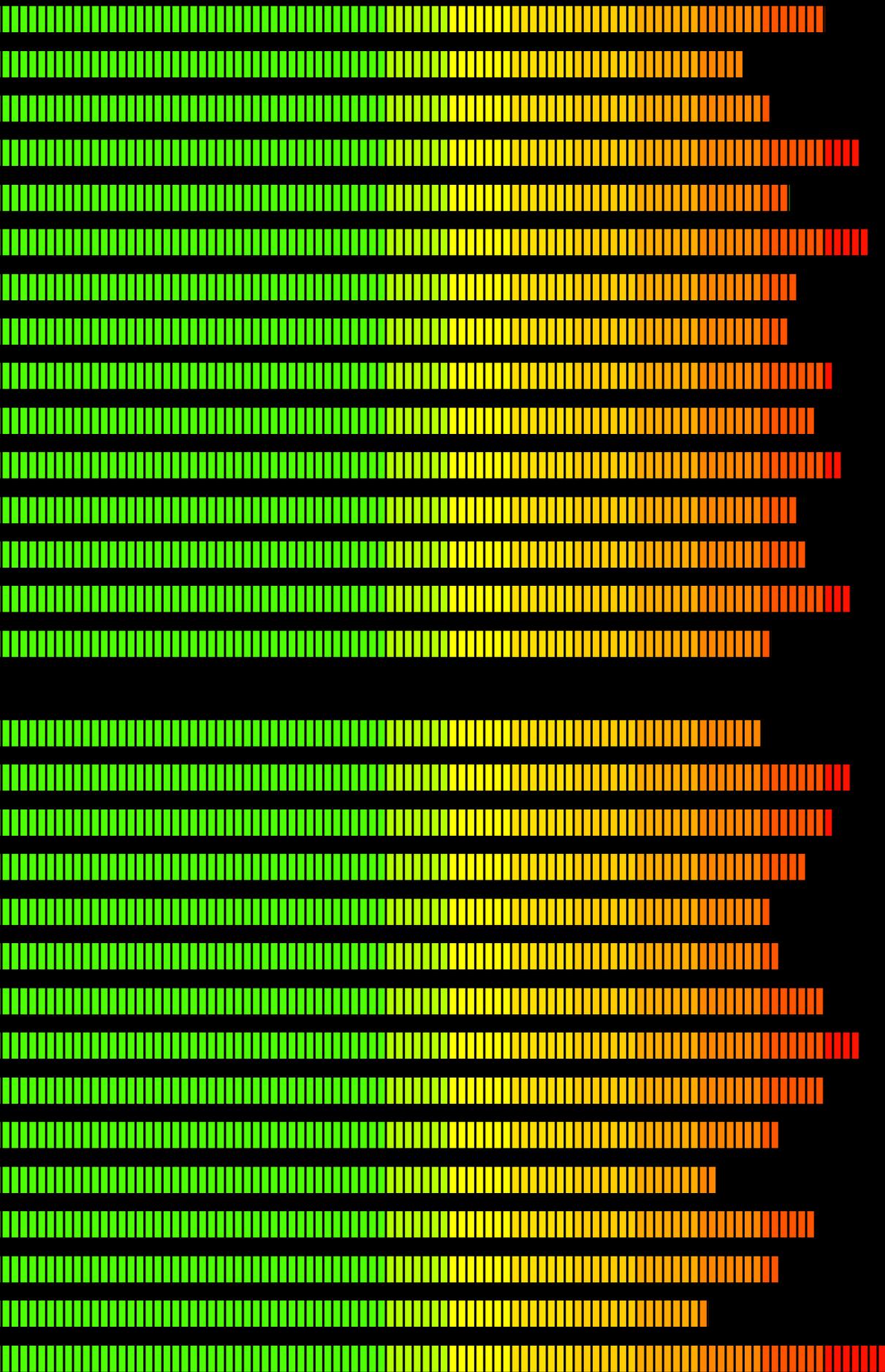
**PLUS EARTHA KITT - DR. DRE - PATTI SMITH AND MANY MORE!**

**MAY 17, 2023 - JANUARY 28, 2024 WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI  
FREE ADMISSION 4652 MARYLAND AVENUE, SAINT LOUIS, MO 63108 WORLDCHESSHOF.ORG**

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**WITH EXTRAORDINARILY RICH HISTORIES IN COMMON, IT IS NO WONDER THAT THERE ARE INNUMERABLE POINTS OF INTERSECTION BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE STORIES OF CHESS AND MUSIC. FROM MASTER CHESS PLAYERS WHO ARE DEEPLY PASSIONATE ABOUT WRITING, PLAYING, AND EXPERIENCING MUSIC TO WORLD-RENOWNED MUSICIANS WITH INSATIABLE APPETITES FOR BOTH THE COMPETITIVE AND COLLABORATIVE ASPECTS OF CHESS, THE ART OF MUSIC AND THE SPORT OF CHESS HAVE ENJOYED AN ENORMOUSLY PRODUCTIVE AND MUTUALLY INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIP OVER THE CENTURIES.**

***SOUND MOVES* IS AN EXPLORATION OF HOW CHESS AND MUSIC HAVE ENHANCED, COMPLEMENTED, AND CHALLENGED ONE ANOTHER—OFTEN IN UNEXPECTED WAYS, FROM AS EARLY AS THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY. MANY OF THE MUSICIANS AND CHESS PLAYERS FEATURED IN THIS EXHIBITION ARE AMONG THE WORLD’S MOST CELEBRATED, WHILE OTHERS MAY NOT YET HAVE ACHIEVED SUCH NOTORIETY. NEVERTHELESS, EVERY PLAYER IN THIS EXHIBITION IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE COMPLEX CHEMISTRY THAT COMPRISES THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF MUSIC AND CHESS.**



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## WHERE MUSIC MEETS THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME SHANNON BAILEY, CHIEF CURATOR WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame celebrates the ancient game of chess and how it has been incorporated and adapted beyond the boundaries of the chessboard into all aspects of history and culture. Items that bridge the worlds of chess and music have been seen throughout many of our exhibitions since we opened in 2011, including music-related chess sets, posters by the bands The White Stripes and the Dave Matthews Band, and artifacts celebrating the renowned artists and composers John Cage and Yoko Ono. In fact, one major artwork, Guido van der Werve's *Nummer twaalf, the Chess Piano*, an impressive handmade, playable chess piano, was exhibited in our inaugural exhibition *OUT OF THE BOX: Artists Play Chess* (September 9, 2011-February 12, 2012), which was curated by Saint Louis University associate professor of art history Bradley Bailey. Now, van der Werve and his chess piano will be making their long-awaited return in our newest exhibition *Sound Moves: Where Music Meets Chess*, which also marks the return of Bradley Bailey as co-curator of this exciting new exhibition.

While celebrating the great players and contributors to the game of chess, the World Chess Hall of Fame has always seen itself as more of a cultural salon—a place where interactive cultural experiences occur. Perhaps the most popular example of such a cultural experience has been through live music performance,

which has been a crucial part of the WCHOF since we opened as well. One of the very first programs was van der Werve's live performance of *Number Twelve: Chess Piano in Three Movements*, performed with members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra on September 13, 2011. In 2013, the WCHOF began partnering with the Mizzou New Music Initiative, and hosted several concerts of new music created by students from the University of Missouri-Columbia inspired by exhibitions and events at the Saint Louis Chess Campus. The Mizzou New Music Initiative is a delightful program that brings together a diverse array of programs, positioning the University of Missouri School of Music as a leading center for the creation and performance of new music. The Initiative is the direct result of the generous support of Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Mr. Rex Sinquefield and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation. All of these programs together led to the creation

of the Music Series in 2014, first led by Marc Thayer, then Bjorn Raneheim, and now under the direction of Brian Owens and Brian Woods. These monthly concerts celebrate impressive regional musicians (under Owens) as well as celebrating a variety of composers and St. Louis Symphony musicians (under Woods).

All of the music programming at the WCHOF brings such a richness of educational elements and great entertainment to the Saint Louis Chess Campus, the Central West End, and the Saint Louis metropolitan area at large. With the growing popularity of these events, we knew it was time to dedicate an entire exhibition to the intersection of chess and music. This exhibition celebrates many genres of music, many regions of the world, and many time periods. There is truly something for everyone in this exhibition. We look forward not only to looking at the rich history of these two seemingly disparate worlds, but also to celebrating the variety of Saint Louis connections that we discovered along the way. We will continue to promote our built-in music programming, but also bring in several exhibiting musicians and contributors to perform. In addition, we are thrilled that The Muny will be presenting *Chess: The Musical* in July 2023. Saint Louis' own Chuck Berry will be highlighted in the exhibition to tell the story of Chess Records and its impact on music in America—several of these loans and donations come from Blueberry Hill and the Delmar Loop legend Joe Edwards. We are also thrilled to debut new music pop-up concerts at our extensive list of pop up chess parks around Saint Louis in the summer of 2023. We hope that you enjoy the exhibition, all of this new and stimulating programming, and that you learn more about where chess meets music.





Guido van der Werve, **Nummer twaalf, the Chess Piano**, 2009. Copyright Guido van der Werve, Courtesy of the artist and GRIMM Amsterdam | New York | London, Photo by Suzy Gorman



Alexandra Cavillet, **The Kid LAROI**, September 8, 2021. Courtesy of the photographer



MGM, David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve Play Chess on the Set of **The Hunger**, 1983, Courtesy of Alamy Stock Photo



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**ESSAY BY BRADLEY BAILEY**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

An exhibition on the seemingly countless intersections of music and chess in history could take a wide variety of forms. One version could be to focus on the great chess players who also have musical talents, and likewise survey the musicians who have themselves been beguiled by the game. The area of overlap in the Venn diagram of chess and music personalities reveals a broad spectrum of ability, from the master of the *opéra comique* and greatest chess player of his day François-André Danican Philidor, or the Soviet chess champion and celebrated concert pianist Grandmaster (GM) Mark Taimanov, to the multitudes of wood-pushing music greats, such as the glam rock icons David Bowie and T. Rex frontman Marc Bolan, garage rock

and post-punk revivalist Julian Casablancas of The Strokes, country superstar Willie Nelson, and the architect of bebop Dizzy Gillespie, who famously killed time backstage playing chess between gigs. In some rare cases, including the jazz, blues, country, soul, and pop legend Ray Charles, the virtuoso classical violinist David Oistrakh, and the renowned composer Sergei Prokofiev, you find musicians of the highest caliber who were also recognized as being able to hold their own against world-class chess players.

Another approach could be to identify composers of music who made chess a part of their personal and creative lives, whether by creating compositions on chess themes, or fashioning the game itself into a



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musical instrument of sorts, or utilizing the structure of the game as a means of producing compositions. Here the range of possibility is similarly expansive, from the visual artist and filmmaker Guido van der Werve's fully functioning acoustic chessboard piano to the Jazz Champion, a computer chess game converted by the computer scientist and audiovisual artist Leo Neumann into an electronic musical instrument. In the case of Arnold Schoenberg, widely considered to be the father of modern music, his invention of a complex chess variant he called Coalition Chess has minimal overlap with his musical endeavors, but instead provides further evidence of his insatiable drive to innovate by challenging traditional forms. One could also include

in this category the singer, songwriter, and chess conceptual artist Juga di Prima, whose performances and videos dedicated to the play of the great male and female chess competitors of the past mirror her own ambitions to one day play at the grandmaster level.

And of course there are the chess sets and boards themselves, with piece designs based on musical themes, boards and sets owned and played on by the great musicians, and chess sets designed with a particular artist or musical genre in mind. Such an exhibition would invariably include the hand-painted set and board with the galactic-inspired imagery of the graffiti artist Cheba, whose set for Purling London was featured in a *Chess Life* cover story on the hip-hop

Above Left:  
Feels.tv, **Tactical**, 2019,  
Collection of Juga di Prima

Above:  
Purling x Cheba, **The Cosmos  
Chess Set**, 2019, Courtesy  
of Purling Ltd.

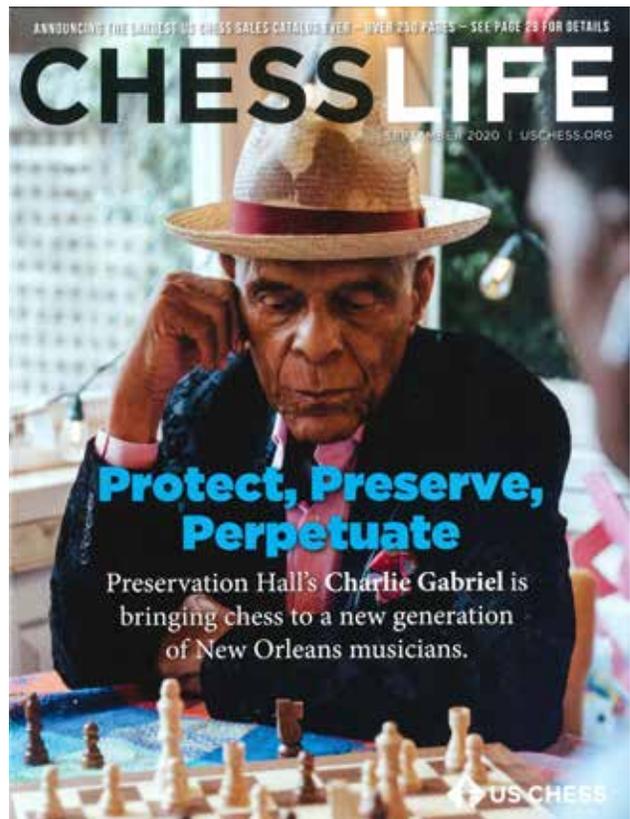
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star the RZA, one of several Wu-Tang Clan alums for whom chess has been a rich source of lyrical themes. More modest in appearance but no less historically important are the working sets of renowned musicians like the multi-instrumentalist and musical director of the Preservation Hall Foundation Charlie Gabriel, who has been playing chess for seventy years and music even longer, cutting his teeth in jazz legend Lionel Hampton's band in the 1940s when he was only in his teens.

Then there are the unique, unusual, and inspiring ways in which chess and music have intersected culturally over the centuries, such as the sumptuously illustrated manuscripts on music and games commissioned by Alfonso X, also known as Alfonso the Wise, the thirteenth-century Castilian King whose passions for chess and song live on today in two of the most beautifully crafted manuscripts of his era. In our own time, pop icon Katy Perry's performance of her hit song "Dark Horse" at the 2015 Super Bowl Halftime Show, complete with acrobatic dancers in glittering chess piece costumes by award-winning costume designer Marina Toybina and an elaborate computer-animated chessboard projected onto the field, was seen by over 118 million people in the United States alone, and remains the most watched halftime show in Super Bowl history. Add to this list displays about the smash 1980s hit musical *Chess*, the chess and music power couple of U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky and world-famous cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, the jam band Phish's live, in-concert chess matches against their audience, and the Minor Threats, the formidable Philadelphia youth chess club named after the seminal Washington, D.C., punk band, and you would have an exhibition that would appeal to chess fanatics, music lovers, and pop culture buffs alike.

And lastly, you could just do all of the above in one exhibition, and that's exactly what we did. Welcome to *Sound Moves: Where Music Meets Chess* at the World Chess Hall of Fame.





Left:  
Photographer unknown, **Jacqueline and Gregor Piatigorsky**, c. 1940s, Collection of Evan Drachman

Top:  
**Chess Life**, Vol. 75, No. 9, September 2020, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, Image used with permission of US Chess

Above:  
**Minor Threats Chess Club Sweatshirt**, 2014, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, Based on the logo of the Washington, D.C. punk band, Minor Threat.

Bain News Service, **Mischa Elman, Russian Violinist, Playing Chess**, c. 1915-20, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division



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C. Marshall Wilson,  
**Dizzy Gillespie Playing  
Correspondence Chess.**  
1954, Courtesy of the J. Paul  
Getty Trust and Smithsonian  
National Museum of African  
American History and  
Culture, Made Possible by  
the Ford Foundation, J. Paul  
Getty Trust, John D. and  
Catherine T. MacArthur  
Foundation, The Andrew  
W. Mellon Foundation, and  
Smithsonian Institution

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Above Left:  
Arnold Schoenberg,  
**Coalition Chess**, c. 1920 -  
1925, Collection of the Arnold  
Schönberg Center

Above:  
Bill Ray, **Ray Charles Playing  
Chess with Cwendolyn  
Berry**, May 7, 1966, Courtesy  
of Bill Ray/Shutterstock.com

Left:  
Photographer unknown,  
**Sergei Prokofiev Playing  
Chess**, c. 1930s, Courtesy  
of Lebrecht Music Arts/  
Bridgeman Images

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**THE WCHOF MUSIC SERIES EXPLORES THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CHESS AND MUSIC—SUCH AS NOTES, PATTERN, POETRY, AND TEMPO—WHICH CREATE BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITIONS ON THE CHESSBOARD AND THE KEYBOARD. THE WCHOF MUSIC SERIES CONNECTS COMMUNITIES WITH MUSIC FROM SAINT LOUIS AND BEYOND, INCLUDING WORKS BY CLASSICAL COMPOSERS, R&B PERFORMANCES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.**

Since 2014, the WCHOF Music Series has been part of the rich cultural history at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF). Since that time, the WCHOF Music Series has grown into one of the most popular programs at the WCHOF, attracting world renowned artists, many of whom are local to Saint Louis. After nearly eight years of consistent and successful Music Series programs showcasing the very best in hip-hop, bluegrass, classical, R&B, folk, jazz, Motown, funk, among others, the WCHOF has re-energized the Music Series to give new light and growth to young creatives throughout the Saint Louis area.

In 2022, the WCHOF Music Series introduced the Next Move Creative Initiative, a vehicle bringing young creatives to the table to spark creative conversations using chess as the backdrop. The Next Move Creative sparks conversation and brings content series that engages young creatives around thinking strategically about the business of their craft. Each WCHOF Music Series is hosted by the Creative-in-Residence and will be preceded by an artist-to-artist conversation and Q&A. Additionally, the Next Move Creative Initiative will host special events at the Chess Campus to include songwriting retreats, resource and networking events with partners and collaborators. The WCHOF Music Series is held twice per month and is organized, curated and led by the WCHOF Music Directors.

## **BRIAN OWENS**

Music and love define the artistry of singer, songwriter, and dedicated community activist Brian Owens. These qualities radiate from all of his work, including his duet with five time Grammy-winning and legendary vocalist Michael McDonald on SOUL OF FERGUSON, and the heartfelt interpretation of Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come," which Owens filmed and recorded with his father, Thomas Owens. Their powerful performance ignited the internet and has received more than 100 million views on Facebook and Brian's own YouTube channel. Owens and McDonald will appear as featured guests on an upcoming episode of Sanborn Sessions, hosted by award-winning saxophonist, composer and arranger David Sanborn from his home studio in New York.

As a community advocate, Owens is committed to providing artistic resources, opportunities, mentoring and positive experiences to help students in underserved communities throughout Ferguson and the Saint Louis metropolitan area. Additionally, Owens serves as the CEO of Life Creative Group and Music Director for the World Chess Hall of Fame.

## **BRIAN WOODS**

Celebrated for his "heroism" and "convincing technique" (ArtsNash), pianist Brian Woods has emerged as a compelling artist of international acclaim. Woods' 2021-2022 season highlights include his solo debut for the World Piano Teachers Association, a debut as featured soloist for the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis, and concerto debuts with the Manassas Symphony, Southeast Missouri Symphony, Southern Illinois Symphony, and Belleville Philharmonic. Woods has recently been appointed a Music Director at the World Chess Hall of Fame in Saint Louis.

A native of Missouri, Woods has enjoyed success in numerous distinguished competitions, including the Verona International Piano Competition, The American Prize, the Music Teachers' National Association Young Artist Competition, and the Artist Presentation Society Auditions. Past seasons have included solo recitals in Toronto, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Saint Louis, Kansas City, and Dublin, Ireland. In 2021, Woods completed the Artist Diploma Program at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School, where he studied on full scholarship with legendary Irish pianist and Beethoven interpreter John O'Connor. He looks forward in 2022 to concert tours of the United States and artist residencies for universities across the Midwest.

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## WCHOF STAFF

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The mission of the World Chess Hall of Fame is to educate visitors, fans, players, and scholars by collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting the game of chess and its continuing cultural and artistic significance.

The Museum does not discriminate or permit harassment or discrimination on the basis of gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin in the treatment of individuals with respect to employment, or admission or access to Museum facilities, programs, or activities.

## SOUND MOVES: WHERE MUSIC MEETS CHESS

May 17, 2023–January 28, 2024

**Curated by Bradley Bailey, Associate Professor of Art History, Saint Louis University and Shannon Bailey, Chief Curator, World Chess Hall of Fame**

The World Chess Hall of Fame acknowledges Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield, whose generous support have made all of our exhibitions possible.

The World Chess Hall of Fame would like to thank all of the talented and generous people who contributed to this exhibition, including:

**Lenders:** Frank Camaratta, House of Staunton; Michael Cuscuna; David DeLucia; Evan Drachman; Joe Edwards; Charlie Gabriel and the Gabriel Family Archives, Greg Lucas, Mary Cormaci, and the Preservation Hall Foundation; Jonah Raduns-Silverstein and the Detroit Sound Conservancy; Steve Crumette; Tom Callegos and Luann Woneis; Alexandra Cavillet; Ben Goldstein, Mariusz Podkalicki and Marc Allan; Carl Henniger Estate and Michael Henniger and the staff at Morrison Hotel Gallery; Peter Hince; Garry Kasparov; Laura Kuhn and the staff at the John Cage Trust; Carol Merrill-Mirsky at the Piatigorsky Archives, Colburn School; Therese Muxeneder and the staff at the Arnold Schönberg Center; Leo Neumann and tonlichtstudio; Yoko Ono; Gregory Pass and the staff of Special Collections at Pius XII Memorial Library, Saint Louis University; Juga di Prima; Douglas Remley and the staff at the National Museum of African American History and Culture; Nathan Resika; Niko Schroeder; Kevin Shapiro, Phish Archivist; Kitt Shapiro; David Taylor, Scott Collins, Gosia Łapsa-Malawsk and the staff at Purling Ltd.; Marina Toybina, Katy Perry, and Baz Halpin; Guido van der Werve, Jorien de Vries and the staff at GRIMM; Wim van Zon, the staff at Music Inspired Art, Natalja Brüggemann, and Tone & Image Gallery; US Chess

**Donors:** Raquel Browne; IM John Donaldson; Joe Edwards; David “Barzini” Nwobodo and Lanre Lawal; Robert Maxham; Carlos Rafael Rivera and Thomas Mikusz; Bernice and Floyd Sarisohn; Patti Smith; The Muny

**Contributors:** Sam Adoquei; GM Varuzhan Akobian; Mina Bailey; Jason Bui; Julian Casablancas; Jon Crumiller; IM John Donaldson: Carleton Cholz; Ngoc Hoang-DelVecchio, Paige Kaplan, Brooklyn Lavin, Bradford Cobb, and the staff at Direct Management Group; Michael Khodarkovsky; Stefan Freund; Andrew Friedman; Rob Jones; Library of Congress; Benjamin Kaplan, Brian Owens; Joram Piatigorsky; Marlys Ray; Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield; Pete Tamburro; Putri Tan; Amy Wong; Brian Woods; Fat Chimp Studios; Gagosian Gallery; Mizzou New Music Initiative; Phish; Saint Louis Chess Club; Music Program, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Saint Louis University; Silverback Video LLC; Spectrum Studios

Special thanks to Marc Thayer and Bjorn Ranheim. The WCHOF sincerely apologies if anyone was omitted from the acknowledgements. We will update any further printings.

## MIND. ART. EXPERIENCE.

Related programming and a pdf of this brochure are available for download at [worldchesshof.org](http://worldchesshof.org). Donations support our exhibitions, education, outreach, and events.

**WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

**4652 MARYLAND AVENUE, SAINT LOUIS, MO 63108**

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Sam Adoquei, **The Visit of Covindu**, 2014, Collection of Sam Adoquei

