

ABRAHAM INC.

Abraham Inc. brings internationally renowned clarinetist **David Krakauer** and hip-hop renegade **Socalled** together with legendary trombonist **Fred Wesley** (James Brown, Funkadelic, Bootsy Collins) for a jubilant klezmer-funk dance party – not so much a meeting as an inventive melding of these transporting styles.

Says Krakauer, “Ever since I formed *Klezmer Madness!* in the mid 1990's I've been exploring the possibilities of adding funk, jazz, and lately hip-hop influences to klezmer. These explorations logically led me to my collaboration with Socalled, a kindred spirit in the search for that magic place where these styles can find a commonality of ecstatic trance.”

“In late 2005, Socalled and I were on tour somewhere in Europe when *Klezmer Madness!* drummer Michael Sarin mentioned to Socalled that a friend of his was playing with Fred Wesley. A lightbulb went off in our heads... I got in touch with Fred and we met up in New York – at the Carnegie Deli, where we had matzoh ball soup – and decided to try playing together... We booked a rehearsal studio, not quite sure what was going to happen. Fred and I improvised together on a beat by Socalled, and at the end of it we all said to each other, ‘Wow, this totally works!’”

Backed by musicians who collaborate frequently with Krakauer and Socalled, and with the addition of Bronx rapper C-Rayz Walz (Aesop Rock, Immortal Technique), Abraham Inc. took to the road, starting with a sold-out concert at Zankel Hall in December 2006. The group met with a resounding response from the crowds at the Transmusicales de Rennes, one of the largest rock festivals in Europe, earning a rave review in *Le Monde*.

In May 2008, Abraham Inc. brought down the house at the historic Apollo Theater. Wrote Bill Milkowski in *JazzTimes*, “This endlessly surprising yet highly successful hybrid of klezmer, funk and hip-hop had the enthusiastic crowd – young and old, Jews and gentiles, whites and blacks – dancing ecstatically in the aisles like it was a Jewish wedding. Wesley brought the funk while virtuoso clarinetist David Krakauer delivered the passionate intensity and deep Jewish soul that ties him to the lineage of klezmer clarinet kings like Naftule Brandwein and Dave Tarras. Montreal-based multi-instrumentalist and visionary beat architect Josh Dolgin, aka Socalled, provided a bridge between the klezmer and hip-hop worlds with his audacious Hebraic rapping while the Bronx-bred emcee C-Rayz Walz brought street cred to this unlikeliest of collaborations with his remarkable freestyling facility and stark urban imagery.”

Wrote Ben Conniff in *Playboy.com*, “As the music began, I worried that this collaboration was just as crazy as it seemed... But as the band constructed its sound piece by piece – Wesley’s fat trombone licks, Krakauer’s Klezmer-tinged improvisations, the rhythm section’s funk structure – they found a balance that was powerfully danceable.”

After more than two years of touring, Abraham Inc. was primed to record *Tweet Tweet*. Says Wesley, “I think we came up with a killer product. It is a pleasure doing something different with such dynamic musicians as Josh and David. Our talents were stretched to areas that we couldn't have imagined reaching alone. We all inspired one another.” As Socalled sees it, Abraham Inc. is about “bringing people together with music, celebrating differences and commonalities... Cultural hybrid vigour in yo’ face.”