

DAVID KRAKAUER

What the Critics Say...

About David Krakauer's Live Performances

"Mr. Krakauer is a breathtakingly flamboyant clarinetist, racing through every octave of his instrument and turning trills into laughs or cries of anguish. He's musically erudite, hinting at Greek music in one tune, paying tribute to the New Orleans jazz of Sydney Bechet in another or exploring textural abstractions and circular breathing in a solo."

Jon Pareles, *NY Times* April 4th, 2009

"Lots of folks play the clarinet, but very few like David Krakauer. There is little if anything Krakauer can't do with a clarinet – in any style. He can make it speak with power and delicacy across its range in a variety of foreign "languages."

Classical Voice of North Carolina, October 2007

"Known for his ability to work with a multitude of genres, Krakauer is a master of jazz, rock, funk and most recently, hip-hop."

Daily Iowan, October 11, 2007

51st Annual DOWNBEAT Critics Poll: Top Ten RISING STAR clarinetists - DAVID KRAKAUER
Downbeat Magazine, August 2003

"David Krakauer, who is at home in both musics [klezmer and classical] and others, performed the solo clarinet part so pungently and idiomatically that I can't imagine wanting to hear another soloist play it."

Terry Teachout, *The Washington Post*, May 4, 2003

(on one of Mr. Krakauer's performances of Golijov's "The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind")

"Mesmerizing musicality, speed, and articulation infuse his clarinet with power, so much so, that when he puts it down it surely must continue to play."

Elliott Simon, *All About Jazz*, Issue No. 24, April 2004

"Bringing prodigious chops and serious mirth to klezmer, the clarinetist David Krakauer and his excitable Klezmer Madness band can turn a concert into what seems like an avant-garde Jewish wedding celebration. He's a local treasure, not to be missed."

The New Yorker, April 15, 2002

"...Krakauer played with a combination of soulfulness and electrifying showiness"

Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*; April 26, 2001

"...a voluble, generous performer, ripping out dazzling phrases with ardent energy."

Howard Mandel, *Jazz Times*; September 2001

"There is arguably no one today playing klezmer—or any music, for that matter—that is at once as deeply rooted in tradition while at the same time as utterly innovative and in-the-moment as David Krakauer."

Seth Rogovy (author of *The Essential Klezmer*), *The Berkshire Eagle*; June 5, 2001

"...music of uncontrollable joy fused with irrevocable pathos and nobody plays it better or with more soul than Krakauer and his band Klezmer Madness!..."

Duane Harper Grant, *Sequenza/21*

About Bubbemeises: Lies My Grandma Told Me, David Krakauer featuring Klezmer Madness! and Socalled (Label Bleu, 2005; US Distributor, harmonia mundi)

"Clarinetist David Krakauer leads what is easily the most adventurous and exciting klezmer group working right now, a band that promiscuously combines jazz, hip hop, funk, and klezmer sounds to create an exhilarating danceable mishmash that never gets stale...Spectacular."

Rick Anderson, *CD HotList: New Releases for Libraries*, December, 2006

"This is by far the most interesting synthesis of hip-hop and klezmer attempted to date...This CD represents a significant step forward."

George Robinson, *Jewish Journal*, December 29, 2006

(continued)

"An electrifying and edgy take on traditional klezmer music by clarinetist David Krakauer, whose speedy delivery yips and yelps through rock-inflected festive pieces."

Charlie Fidelman, *Ottawa Citizen*, December 16, 2006

"A damn fine record, and that's no lie. 9/10"

Rupert Bottenberg, *Montreal Mirror*, January 11, 2007

About Live in Krakow, David Krakauer featuring Klezmer Madness! and Socalled (Label Bleu, 2004; US Distributor, harmonia mundi)

"Adding organic funk rhythms to the snaky melodies, chugging tempos, and celebratory spirit of the tradition, the classically trained bandleader achieves the near impossible: He makes one of the world's most exuberant song styles – a staple at glass-smashing shindigs like weddings and bar mitzvahs – sound more festive than ever."

Sam Prestini, *SFWeekly*, March 17, 2004

"Krakauer's Klezmer Madness! is the leading klezmer band working today. He has the ability to bridge traditional music with modern sound...music from your great-grandparents getting on the boat to your kid scratching your favorite LPs in the basement."

Mark Corroto, *AllAboutJazz.com*, March 2, 2004

"The world of MTV isn't klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer's milieu, but if it were, a video for "Table Pounding," the opening track of *Live in Krakow*, might include a scene of four black-clad, bearded, traditional-looking Jewish gents cruising the streets of Krakow in a low-riding car...The resulting mix of old with the new is a fascinating brew, filled with the freshness and vibrancy of a spirited, well recorded live set."

Dan McClenaghan, *AllAboutJazz.com*, January 15, 2004

About The Twelve Tribes, David Krakauer and Klezmer Madness! (Label Bleu, 2002; US Distributor, harmonia mundi)

"...Krakauer sounds like somebody who could beat you up without laying a finger on you, just by pointing his clarinet in your direction."

John DeFore, *San Antonio Current*, June 26, 2003

"...Whether he's delivering a straightforward traditional piece or an offbeat original, "The Twelve Tribes," a collection of traditional klezmer melodies and Krakauer compositions, shows the musician at the top of his game."

Kurt Hoffman, *Forward*, November 8, 2002

About A New Hot One, David Krakauer and Klezmer Madness!
(Label Bleu, 2001; US Distributor, harmonia mundi)

"The master classical clarinetist yips and wails through jazz-and-rock inflected klezmer pieces, with electric guitar, accordion—and Lower East Side soul." three stars

David Gates, *Newsweek*; March 12, 2001

"...hands-down one of the most exciting clarinetists performing today..."

Jason Verlinde, *Amazon.com*

"This album is magnificent. ...those who want Klezmer music to risk being up-to-date...will be ravished."

Philippe Méziat, *Jazz Magazine* (France); November 2000

"...this hair-raising American clarinetist revives his Klezmer roots with an ingenuity as great as his passion."

Fara C, *Jazzman* (France); November 2000

About David Krakauer's Recording With The Kronos Quartet: The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind
(Nonesuch, 1997)

"David Krakauer's playing of the various clarinet parts is an outstanding instrumental, musical, and emotional achievement."

Richard Dyer, *The Boston Globe*; June 5, 1997

"Mr. Krakauer and the Kronos players...give the work a truly gripping performance."

Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*; November 6, 1997

(continued)

"David Krakauer—a tremendous player—rushes madly from the highest to the lowest register of his instrument."

Robert Cowan, *Gramophone*; June 1997

"The yowling, swirling clarinet of David Krakauer leads the ensemble, and his performance in particular is stunning—he really bends a note to thrilling effect."

Andy Hamilton, *Classic CD* (UK); July 1997

"...the virtuoso horn part admirably played by David Krakauer."

Bill Tilland, *Option*; July/August 1997

"The quartet here is supplemented by clarinetist David Krakauer, whose own trio, Klezmer Madness!, have an engaging CD of genre-stretching Jewish music on the Tzadik label...Krakauer makes his clarinet swoop and glide maniacally in and out of sizzling string textures."

Norman Weinstein, *The Boston Phoenix*; May 23, 1997

###