

DAVID TORN
Composer

David Torn (AKA "splattercell") is a film-composer, producer, ECM recording artist & guitarist/performer, known for his expansive musical voice, which seems to bridge a naturally & idiosyncratically wide variety of idioms, styles, periods & contexts. His groundbreaking textural work has had material impact & influence upon both film scoring --- through his own scores, & through the great number of his original contributions to the scores of other composers --- and more broadly, upon electro-acoustic & electronic music & its current musical technologies.

David's recent solo album "Only Sky" reached #1 in Jazz & Avant Garde sales on Amazon, #379 in all music sold on Amazon for 2015 & David had a successful USA tour for "Only Sky" in 2015.

David was guest speaker at the TEDxCalTech event in January 2013 where he performed and did a presentation on his theories and views of the connection between music and the Brain. David's film credits include Focus Features 2014 theatrical release ***That Awkward Moment*** directed by Tom Gormican and the comedy/drama called ***Drumline: A New Beat*** directed by Bille Woodruff released by Fox Television in 2015.

David's first studio film-score, ***The Order***, was nominated for a Grammy award. His substantial creative contribution to ***Traffic*** created for a notably groundbreaking & influential sound. He also scored ***Friday Night Lights, Lars & The Real Girl, The Wackness, Everything Must Go, Anvil: The Story of Anvil, Saint John of Las Vegas, The Line (La Linea), Teenage Paparazzo*** & etc.

His contributive work has graced the sheerly musical output of other artists as unusually diverse as David Bowie, Jeff Beck, Sting, Mick Karn, David Sylvian, John Legend, Tori Amos, Tim Berne, Madonna, Meshell Ndegeocello, Jan Garbarek & Eberhard Weber, Jarboe, Manu Katché, Laurie Anderson, Kaki King, K.d. Lang, Chocolate Genius, Don Cherry, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Tony Levin, Drew Gress, Julie Slick, David Douglas, & et cetera.

As well, David has played a key creative role in noted scores of other film-composers, including those of Carter Burwell, Howard Shore, Cliff Martinez, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Theodore Shapiro, BC Smith, & a number of other film-composers who continue to employ samples of his textural work. Most recently he is producing, arranging & composing for recording artist Donna Lewis' upcoming album featuring The Bad Plus. In addition, he is featured in Blizzard's video game ***World Of Warcraft*** and the upcoming ***Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2***.

His education included study with Leonard Bernstein (within the "Music for Young Composers" Series), John Abercrombie, & Pat Martino.

He has been the recipient of several awards, including: The Cowboy Award Best Score (Jackson Hole Film Festival), 2 Grammys, a Bronze Axis Award (NZ), 3x Readers' Poll Awards from Guitar Player Magazine, in addition to a number of other international awards & nominations.

By invitation, David has conducted 2 Master-Classes at the California Institute of the Arts, and some select workshops in the USA, England, Japan & Brazil, as well as being a sought-after private consultant to specific areas within the burgeoning sector of Music Technology Manufacturing and R&D.

FILM CREDITS

The Light of the Moon

Director: Jessica M. Thompson
Stedfast Productions

That Awkward Moment

Director: Tom Gormican
Treehouse Pictures / Focus Features

Jesus Henry Christ

Director: Dennis Lee
Red Om Films / E1 Entertainment

Everything Must Go

Director: Dan Rush
Temple Hill Entertainment / Lionsgate

Lars & The Real Girl

Director: Craig Gillespie
Sidney Kimmel Entertainment / Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM)

The Lincoln Lawyer (uncredited)

Director: Brad Furman
Lionsgate / Lakeshore

Friday Night Lights

Director: Peter Berg
Imagine Entertainment / Universal Pictures

The Order

Director: Brian Helgeland
Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation
**Grammy Nominee for Best Soundtrack Score 2003*

Teenage Paparazzo (Documentary)

Director: Adrian Grenier
Reckless Productions / HBO Documentary Films

Saint John Of Las Vegas

Director: Hue Rhodes
Circle of Confusion & IndieVest Pictures

The Line (La Linea)

Director: James Cotten
Project One Films / Maya Entertainment

The Wackness

Director: Jonathan Levine
Occupant Films / Sony Pictures Classics
"Best Drama, Audience Award" - Sundance Film Festival
"Audience Award" - LA Film Festival

Anvil: The Story Of Anvil (Documentary)

Director: Sacha Gervasi
Abramorama (USA theatrical) Mushroom Pictures (Australia theatrical)
VH1 Classics
"Audience Award" - LA Film Festival
HBO "portal" (Winner, AICP & Cannes Golden Prize)

Thunder Soul (Documentary)

Director: Mark Landsman
Snoot Entertainment / Roadside Attractions
**Independent Spirit Award*

Believe In Me

Director: Robert Collector
IFC Films / Warner Bros. Domestic Cable Distribution
**WINNER "Best Score": Jackson Hole Film Festival*

Theme: Murder (Documentary)

Director: Martha Swetznoff
Sympathetic Productions

Traffic (uncredited)

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Initial Entertainment Group (IEG) / USA Films

The Hoax (additional music)

Director: Lasse Hallstrom
Miramax Films

Heist (closing credits)

Director: David Mamet

Morgan Creek Productions / Warner Bros. Pictures

TELEVISION CREDITS

Drumline: A New Beat (TV Movie)

Director: Bille Woodruff

FOX Television

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN VARIOUS FILMS

Twilight

No Country For Old Men

Fur

Howl

The Departed

March Of The Penguins

Adaptation

The Big Lebowski

The Price Of Security (with Cliff Martinez)

Love Is The Devil

Reversal Of Fortune

Smoke Signals

Skins

A Dangerous Woman

Snake Eyes

Kalifornia

The Velvet Goldmine

The Beast

Tibet

The Public Eye

The General's Daughter

Simone

The High-Lo Country

The Score

Glee (TV Series)

and more...

MUSIC RECORDINGS & COLLABORATIONS

David Bowie
Tim Berne (producer, mixer, co-composer)
John Legend (Grammy nom)
John Popper & DJ Logic
Jeff Beck (producer, composer, mixer: Grammy Award)
David Sylvian
Sting (creative advisor)
Madonna (co-composer)
Tori Amos
K.d. Lang
Ryuichi sakamoto
Kaki king (producer)
Mick Karn (producer, co-composer)
Laurie Anderson
Drew Gress (producer: Grammy nom)
Dave Douglas (producer: Grammy nom)
Meshell Ndegeocello
Chocolate Genius
Donna Lewis (producer, songwriter)
Jan Garbarek & Eberhard Weber
Manu Katché
Buffalo Collision (producer)
Andy Rinehart (producer)
McKinley (producer)
Julie Slick
JBK
Don Cherry
Jane Siberry
Mark Nauseef
Jarboe (producer, co-composer)
Marc Cohn, Jim Carroll,
Jeremy Toback, Gongzilla
The Snakes (w/Jack Bruce)
Bebo Baldan
Lonely Universe (producer, composer)
& Etc.

SOLO RECORD ALBUMS

David Torn: "Prezens", Ecm Records (Multiple Int'l Awards)
 David Torn: "Cloud About Mercury"
 Lars & The Real Girl --- Score
 "The Order" --- Score (Grammy Nominee for Best Soundtrack Score)
 "Friday Night Lights" --- Score
 "The Wackness" --- Score
 Splattercell :: OAH
 Splattercell ::: Remiksis ::: AH
 David Torn: "What Means 'Solid', Traveller?"
 David Torn: "Tripping Over God"
 David Torn: "Polytown"
 David Torn: "Best Laid Plans"
 Forever Sharp & Vivid
 B.L.U.E.
 Zobo Funn Band
 Levin/Torn/White, & Etc.

Some of the Best Of lists David's band's first recording "Sun of Goldfinger" made in 2019:

[Rolling Stone Best of 2019](#)
[Jazziz 10 albums you need to know 2019](#)
[allaboutjazz Best of 2019 McClenaghan](#)
[Treblezine Best of 2019](#)
[Lament for a Straight Line Best of 2019](#)
[allaboutjazz – John Kelman’s Best of 2019](#)
[Guitar Moderne - on Michael Ross’ best of 2019 list](#)
[National Sawdust Best of 2019](#)
[Georgia Straight \(Vancouver\)](#)
[Sequenza 21 Christian Carey’s Best of 2019](#)

PRESS QUOTES

Getting David for my film was a miracle. He's a gifted composer and musician. He's also a generous collaborator, opening his home and his process to me, the first-time filmmaker with no scoring experience. And beyond that, he worked magic for my film. Scoring is a combination of art and film craft, and David is gifted in both. There were parts of my film's plot that audiences were struggling to get. We tried all different types of edits and nothing worked. Then we described the problems to David, and miraculously he produced an extremely moving score that also fixed the plot issues for the audience! It sounds impossible but it's true. Through his music, he helped the audience stay emotionally connected and on the journey with the audience. It was like he wove a musical structure through the film that guided people through the plot. Like I said, he was a miracle.

-Hue Rhodes

"I was constantly surprised at the inventiveness and depth that David brought to the score in the film. Like a great movie, his music gives you more with every listen, his layered style and unique sound is mesmerizing. David's engagement with the narrative, his understanding of the characters, and his love for storytelling came through in every choice he made. He's a wizard."

-Tom Gormican

"David Torn, if that in fact is his real name, is a genius. Listen to this music in the dark. You will be transported into the film quicker through his music than by watching the film with the sound turned off. Tabla, ouds & guitar feedback. Synthesized Tibetan monks and (real) Bulgarian women. This is what David brought to the table. He's not from around here. David was sent from the future to drag the past into the present tense. I don't know how he drives a car and lives. It's the only time he follows the rules.

David's presets on his car radio are set for the spaces between the stations. Those scary electronic hinterlands the rest of us try to avoid, try to skip over. They hold such fear, that some punch a button to avoid them, to skip from program to program. But David is missing the fear chromosome. He lives those spaces, breathes them. David torn can play Moby Dick on a guitar. He can literally conjure the exceedingly pale leviathan into the room. Who else can do these things?

David may or may not be a god. At the very least, he was touched by one. Witness the evidence: he likes to say 'dude' a lot and he can be very longwinded. It's hard to believe anyone who can express himself so thoroughly musically, could find anything else to say. But he does. He is a compulsive communicator.

If the United Nations or the League of nations, or the more sinister Group of Dudes Who Decide Things had based their gatherings, their confluxes on a musical language, David would translate it into Sitar for the Uttar Pradesh delegation, Steel Guitar for the ambassador from the Mississippi Delta. David could achieve musical world peace if we'd only let him. If we could only get out of our own stupid way.

Alas, he is bound, for now, to the confines of this CD. Listen to it in the dark and let it fill your space. Listen to it in the dark and see it. Listen to it in the dark and imagine what a world would be if we would only put Mr. Torn in charge. I am certainly grateful that I did."

-Brian Helgeland

"His work is very spiritual and has an ephemeral quality that I adore."

-David Bowie

"I said to myself, 'What IS this SPLATTERCELL?', and BOOM!, within a minute I was just sitting there, riveted. This guy's twisted, and I WANT twisted: Torn saved the tracks from the bin! He's 'The One'."

-Jeff Beck

"Destined for cult status, this should be the ... record of choice for electronica admirers--- or the fave electronica album for guitar fans".

-Billboard Magazine - Critics' Choice (USA)

"..... a chillingly wonderful CD. Brilliant stuff."

-Keyboard Magazine (USA)

"Torn is perhaps the hippest creator of cut-and-paste music you're likely to encounter. Case in point is SPLaTTeRcEll ::: OAH. OAH is a bold leap forward for the forces of organica--- those who believe that the hybrid of live performance & digital editing is the most exciting musical place-to-be."

-Remix Magazine (USA)

"While creating ungodly, insect-fear noises by subverting loops & delays to his own weird ends with massive amounts of distortion, he'll tell you he's just playin' the blues: it's a strange mix of primitive mojo & state-of-the-art technology."

-Musician Magazine - Critics' Choice: 'Solo of the Year' (USA)

"When guitarists kick ass, they usually garner a solid core of devotees. But when a guitarist so kicks ass that he completely rethinks his instrument, those devotees can turn into fanatics. Torn's become the new demi-god of neo-psychedelic fusion."

-Spin Magazine (USA)

"Torn creates lush ambient textures that make Pink Floyd's 'space music' sound like third-grade sandbox doodles & transforms jazz harmonies into impressionist soundscapes; if you appreciate guitar as a vehicle for both out-of-body spiritual quests & raw emotional expression, let Torn be your shamanistic guide."

-San Francisco Bay Guardian (USA)

"Avant-Guitar's crawling king snake...."

-Guitar Player Magazine (USA)

"One of the most exciting guitarists around.... unearthly textures, incendiary solos, exotic sonic tapestries."

-Billboard Magazine (USA)

"Twisted brilliance."

-Jazz Times (USA)

"Torn is a true wizard, someone who finds mystical potential in every sound."

-L.A. Times (USA)

"Ambience with a serrated edge."

-CD Review (USA)

"Torn, with his loops & sheer psychedelic abandon, is able to create dense textures, screaming intervallic leaps and dark-hued washes of sound that are as ingenious as they are impossible to imitate."

-Downbeat Magazine (USA)

"He can take a single note & make it careen from a scream to a sigh that will leave you devastated. We're dropped in at high speed storming down the highway & then dropped off unceremoniously at the next crossroads, but the ride is a harrowing thrill."

-CD Review (USA)

"Back me against a wall & I'll be forced to admit (if you stick a gun down my throat) that Torn's patented polyglot of Hindustani-style articulation, Eastern modality, bebop phrasing, psychedelic fuzzfire, trip hop sampling, country string-bending & ambient ear-aurora is the least self-conscious, most interesting & FUN high-brow hybrid currently mutating across America's parched musical landscape. If beaten into submission & tortured with thumbscrews, I may even concede that his

revelatory yet hilarious guitar pedagogy makes more sense & does more good than 100 bogus books crammed with little black dots & formulas that read like Cardassian hieroglyphs. But admit that Torn ROCKS? You'll have to KILL me, first."

-Guitar Player Magazine - Critics' Choice (USA)

"Music for the millennium"

-Billboard Magazine - Critics' Choice (USA)



"It's the kind of experience that had me shaking my head & saying, 'Holy shit, what was that?!'. Other flash guitarists can give you occasional transcendent licks, but on this (SPLaTTeRcELL) CD, Torn gives you a 67-minute cosmic package".

-Alternative Press (USA)

"Damn, this is one gorgeous mind-wrangle of a record!"

-Splendid

"David Torn, Bowie's guitarist, has this gorgeous sound. David alone is worth the 5.1 mix, and to be in the middle of this is like being in a film soundtrack with just one guitar."

-Tony Visconti, Producer

"Clearly one of music's Top 50 guitarists, ever".

-Guitar Player Magazine, USA

NOTEWORTHY

One of David Bowie's wish before he passed was to have David Torn and chosen musician friends rerecord an old track of Bowie's, help re-record the instrumental parts — "their own way" --- of David Bowie's 1987 recording, "Never Let Me Down." This special request was honored by Torn and the others. The new version, "Never Let Me Down - 2018", was released late in 2018. Band members were Sterling Campbell, myself, Nico Muhly, Reeves Gabrels, Tim Lefebvre, Steven Wolf & Laurie Anderson.

NATIONALITY

American, based in New York & can work in LA.

REPRESENTATION

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