

Tanya Tagaq (Cambridge Bay, NU)

“Tanya is directly musically in touch with something that is almost a ghost. To me, it is something that is so special and so much a part of the earth and the land and the environment” – David Harrington, Kronos Quartet

‘Indescribable’ is not an appropriate word to begin an artist’s bio, nor is it suitable as a description of a musician. The problem is this: when Tanya Tagaq’s music fills your ears, she is genuinely one of those rare artists whose sounds and styles are truly groundbreaking. ‘Inuit throat singer’ is one part of her sonic quotient. So are descriptions like ‘orchestral’ ‘hip-hop-infused’ and ‘primal’...but these words are not usually used collectively. In the case of Tagaq, however – they are.

So much has happened to Tagaq since the release of her debut CD *Sinaa* (meaning ‘edge’ in her ancestral language of Inuktitut) in 2005. The Nunavut-born singer has not just attracted the attention of some of the world’s most groundbreaking artists, they have invited her to participate on their own musical projects, not just singularly, but repeatedly. Tanya has recently recorded once again with Björk (specifically on the soundtrack for the Matthew Barney film *Drawing Restraint 9*) having already appeared on Björk’s *Medúlla* CD in 2004 and accompanied her on the *Vespertine* tour. In 2005, another monumental collaborative project came to fruition when the Kronos Quartet invited Tanya to participate on a project aptly titled *Nunavut*, which has been performed at select venues across North America, from its January 2006 debut at the Chan Centre in Vancouver, BC through to New York’s Carnegie Hall. Acclaim and respect has followed Tagaq on her solo ventures as well: both *Sinaa* and *Auk / Blood* were nominated for a Juno Award (Best Aboriginal Recording) and (Best Instrumental Recording) Both recordings won in several categories at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, including Best Female Artist.

Tanya’s most recent project is the stunning video “*Tungijjuq*” on which she collaborated with Jesse Zubot and Montreal filmmakers Felix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphael premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. In 2009 Tanya also narrated and provided music for the National Film Board documentary, *This Land*.

Scott Amendola (Berkeley, CA)

“Amendola has complete mastery of every piece of his drumset and the ability to create a plethora of sounds using sticks, brushes, mallets, and even his hands.”
—Steven Raphael, *Modern Drummer* magazine.

While rooted in the San Francisco Bay Area scene, Amendola has woven a dense and far reaching web of bandstand relationships that tie him to influential figures in jazz, blues, groove, rock and new music. He is a creative nexus for a community of musicians stretching across the United States and Canada.

Scott gained widespread notice for his work in guitar ace Charlie Hunter’s trio, in recent years Amendola has stepped forward as the leader of several compelling bands He continues to work as a sideman, accompanying artists such as the tart-toned vocalist Madeleine Peyroux, guitarist and singer/songwriter Kelly Joe Phelps and the Nels Cline Singers (a volatile instrumental trio without a vocalist), and now for Nunavut, Canada’s Tanya Tagaq.

Jesse Zubot (Vancouver, BC)

“His inspired, out-there string work complements Tagaq’s gripping vocals perfectly.” - Montreal Mirror

"Violinist Jesse Zubot's exploratory strings draw circles around her trademark grunts, buzzes, moans and gasps, lending a backbone to this eerily compelling -collection..." - NOW Magazine (Toronto)

Jesse is a founding member of the acoustic-roots ensemble 'Zubot & Dawson'. Zubot is also a member of the Great Uncles of the Revolution which includes well-known Toronto bassist Andrew Downing and trumpeter Kevin Turcotte. Both of these recording acts are Juno Award winners. Recently, Jesse has delved heavily into the world of creative & improvised music. In the past few years he has performed and recorded with the likes of Eugene Chadbourne, Evan Parker, Secret Mommy, Torsten Muller, Dave Douglas, Peggy Lee, Orkestra Rova, Fred Frith, Nels Cline, Henry Kaiser and recently Tanya Tagaq. In 2005, Jesse launched a new label, DRIP AUDIO. (www.dripaudio.com)