

presents...

## PIVOT FESTIVAL

### BUCKET LIST

Mark Applebaum | Composer · Keyboards

Travis Andrews | Guitar

Andy Meyerson | Percussion

### KOOLLOOX

Babatunji, Travis Andrews, Dennis Aman, and Andy Meyerson

### TRUST ME

Travis Andrews | Guitar

Andy Meyerson | Percussion

Lynnee Breedlove | Vocals

Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

### *Satellite*

#### BUCKET LIST

#### MARK APPLEBAUM Achievement Institute Product Rollout

*Product Announcement*

*Demonstration*

*I. Perform Skillfully in Upcoming Congressional Testimony*

*II. Recover from an Episode of Social Cancellation*

*III. Compose the Perfect Prompt for AI to Compose the Perfect E-mail*

*IV. Prepare for Impending Oblivion*

*V. Efficaciously Introduce Fetus to the Genius of Mozart*

**KoollooX and Trust Me Programs announced from the stage with a 15 minute intermission between the KoollooX and Trust Me sets.**

The PIVOT Festival is sponsored by:



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## ARTISTS PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents *The Living Earth Show* (Travis Andrews, Andy Meyerson) for the third time. Their first appearance was in 2017. This is the SFP debut of Dennis Aman, Mark Applebaum, Babatunji, and Lynnee Breedlove.



**Bucket List** is a band conceived by *The Living Earth Show*—the San Francisco-based experimental duo of Travis Andrews and Andy Meyerson—in collaboration with composer and creative catalyst Mark Applebaum.

For more than a decade, *The Living Earth Show* has sought to challenge and expand the traditional composer-performer model in contemporary music. Their partnership with Applebaum represents the most radical iteration of that philosophy to date. Rather than commissioning a single piece, Andrews and Meyerson invited Applebaum, whose work has profoundly shaped their artistic outlook, to form a band with them, developing a shared language through improvisation, experimentation, and collective composition.

Applebaum has long been a towering influence on *The Living Earth Show*'s practice: his irreverent virtuosity, conceptual rigor, and playfully subversive approach to music have deeply informed the duo's aesthetic since Meyerson studied with him as an undergraduate. *Bucket List* is both a tribute to that lineage and a reimagining of it—a living, evolving collaboration that resists hierarchy and celebrates process over product.

The trio's repertoire spans new complexity, experimental electronics, minimalism, funk, and jazz, often interwoven with theatrical and video elements. In *Bucket*

*List*, ludic whimsy and rigorous discipline coexist, yielding music that is as unpredictable as it is exacting—a testament to the creative chemistry between Applebaum and the ensemble he helped inspire.



**KoollooX** is a multidisciplinary collective exploring the boundaries of sound, movement, theater, and performance. Comprising dancer/choreographer Babatunji, instrument builder/performer Dennis Aman, guitarist Travis Andrews, and percussionist Andy Meyerson, *KoollooX* builds site-specific work using physical space as a character for choreography and movement, new music and sounds, and the shared exploration of the boundaries of live performance.



**Trust Me** is an acoustic punk/folk/storytelling band featuring Lynnee Breedlove (vocals), Travis Andrews (guitar), and Andy Meyerson (percussion).

Though Lynnee, Andy, and Travis had all worked together in the queer nü metal collective *COMMANDO*, *Trust Me* is a new band born of and forged in loss.

In the spring of 2020, during the COVID lockdown, Lynnee experienced unfathomable tragedy: his father and stepmother were brutally murdered in their home by his stepbrother. In August of 2024, *Trust*

*Me* recorded an album and built a live show that tells that story and other stories of grief, love, and growth over seven days in the house in Grass Valley, California, where the murder took place. Taken together, this collection of songs and stories is why music exists: it expresses grief, love, loss, and life in ways that words alone simply cannot.

**Mark Applebaum**, Ph.D. is the Edith & Leland Smith Professor of Composition at Stanford University. His solo, chamber, choral, orchestral, operatic, and electro-acoustic work has been performed throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and Asia, including notable commissions from the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the Fromm Foundation, the Spoleto Festival, the Kronos Quartet, Chamber Music America, and the Vienna Modern Festival. Many of his pieces are characterized by challenges to the conventional boundaries of musical ontology: works for three conductors and no players, a concerto for florist and orchestra, pieces for instruments made of junk, notational specifications that appear on the faces of custom wristwatches, works for an invented sign language choreographed to sound, amplified Dadaist rituals, a chamber work comprised of obsessive page turns, and a 72-foot long graphic score displayed in a museum and accompanied by no instructions for its interpretation. His TED talk has been seen by more than five million viewers. Applebaum is also an accomplished jazz pianist and builds electroacoustic sound-sculptures out of junk, hardware, and found objects. At Stanford Applebaum is the founding director of [SIC], the Stanford Improvisation Collective.

**Babatunji** began as a self-taught street performer, developing a unique approach to various styles of hip hop such as breakdance, popping, and krump. He has danced professionally with, Post:ballet, SFDanceworks, SFJazz, Ballare Carmel, ZiRu Dance, Maurya Kerr's tinypistol, and Dawson|Wallace Dance Project among others. Babatunji's choreography has been performed by Berkeley Ballet Theater, Boston Dance Theater, Trolley Dance, SFDanceworks, ZiRu Dance, as well as Joseph Walsh and Sarah Van Patten of San Francisco Ballet for København Danser. He is a Princess Grace Award and Chris Hellman Award recipient. He is currently a member of Alonzo King's *LINES* Ballet.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, **Dennis Aman** studied electronic music with Richard Festinger at San Francisco State University, followed by private instruction in



composition with Dan Becker. Aman was a chorister with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and is currently a member of the Cornelius Cardew Choir. His compositions have been performed in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Japan. In 2018 Electric Guitar and Percussion duo The Living Earth Show premiered his 24 *Preludes and Fugues (Equal Divisions Of The Octave 1-24)* on a set of custom-built microtonal instruments. In addition to writing and performing, Aman was the host and producer host of KALW 91.7 FM's *Music From Other Minds* and currently produces live shows at Roar Shack, an experimental music venue in San Francisco. Additional current projects include a three-generational collaboration with artist Hex Aman and researcher Floyd Aman—a genealogy Graphic Novel, *The Sacred Harp of New Hamburg*.

**Lynnee Breedlove** is the author of the novel *Godspeed*, was the singer for the legendary band Tribe 8, and was the writer/performer of Lynnee Breedlove's *One Freak Show*, a comic solo show about gender and the ensuing book, which won the 2010 Lambda Literary Award in the transgender category. He is the founder of Homobiles, a ride service for the LGBTIQQ community and its allies, which, along with his creative work, won him the 2012 Harvey Milk LGBT Club Award for Activism.

**Travis Andrews** is the co-founder, executive director, and electric guitarist in The Living Earth Show. In that capacity, Andrews' performances have been praised as "mind-blowing" and "a vanguard effort of new chamber music" by the *San Francisco Examiner* and "emotional, transcendent,

and at times bursting with raw post-rock power" by the *Charleston City Paper*. In his work, he strives to use the tools of classical and contemporary music to foreground the voices and perspectives often marginalized by the tradition and its presentation.

Highly in demand as a solo artist, Andrews has been a featured soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Eco Ensemble, and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.

He has performed with John Doe of X, Bryce Dessner of The National, Terry Riley, and Kronos Quartet. A musical omnivore, Andrews also performs with avant-thrash trio Freightier, chambercore band miRthkon, and queer nü metal band COMMANDO.

Andrews has authored articles and books for String Letter Publishing and has been an artist in residence at universities and conservatories around the country. He is an endorsing artist for Fishman Transducers.

**Andy Meyerson** is a drummer and percussionist based in San Francisco, California. He is the Artistic Director, co-founder, and percussionist of The Living Earth Show, one of the premiere experimental classical ensembles in the United States.

He is also the drummer and co-founder of queer nü metal collective COMMANDO, music director of renegade dance company Post:ballet, frequent drummer for Russian feminist protest and performance art group Pussy Riot, the artistic director and CEO of uncompromising experimental chamber music record label Earthy Re-

cords, and a renowned solo artist.

## PROGRAM NOTES

The *Satellite* program features the premieres of projects created by three of the most interesting and important artists in the Bay Area: Bucket List (featuring composer/musician Mark Applebaum) KoollooX (featuring dancer/choreographer Babatunji), and Trust Me (featuring vocalist/author Lynnee Breedlove).

These projects were born of The Living Earth Show's desire to create a paradigm for building new work outside the traditional commissioning model of classical music.

Founded in 2010 after its members graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, The Living Earth Show spent fifteen seasons commissioning hundreds of new pieces of contemporary chamber music and performing at some of the most prestigious venues in the field.

However, as the organization grew, we found that the traditional commissioning ecosystem—shaped by grantors, presenters, and donors—constrained artistic vision, responsiveness, and genuine audience connection.

The slow, approval-driven, premiere-fixed model filters and compromises new work before it reaches the public, limits long-term collaborations, and prevents artists from building sustainable aesthetic worlds or true fans.

In response, beginning in 2024-25, The Living Earth Show launched the *Satellite* Program: a two-year, boundary-free collaborative model in which composers/lead artists create alongside the musicians of The Living Earth Show as equal partners, forming autonomous "satellite" ensembles: Lazyhorse (built with Raven Chacon), Dr. Bittering (built with Juba Kalamka), and the three projects on tonight's show: Trust Me, KoollooX, and Bucket List. These projects were all incubated at The Roar Shack, The Living Earth Show's arts incubator and performing arts venue in downtown San Francisco.

Designed to cultivate shared vocabularies, flexible practices, and aesthetic worlds that can grow with their communities, the program reimagines both creative process and economics by sharing revenue, risk, and ownership among collaborators, allowing us to build a more responsive, artist-driven, sustainable future for experimental chamber music.

—The Living Earth Show



**JASON VIEAUX** | Guitar

**Jiji** | Guitar

**MARCH 28 | 7:30PM | TAUBE ATRIUM THEATER**

Works by **ALBÉNIZ, PUJOL, ARLEN, ROLAND DYENS, JIJI, BACH, METHENY, DOMENICO SCARLATTI, GISMONTI, WREMBEL, TOWNER, and BELLINATI**

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