



Sun Ra

**Hongru Du**



## **Sun Ra:**

*Sun Ra* John Sinclair, 2012-09-27 A collection of interviews and essays on Sun Ra his contemporaries his records his myth and his fan base Composer bandleader pianist and space philosopher Sun Ra was a unique individual and one of the most colorful and enduring of musical legacies transcending time place and culture From the mid 1950s until his death in 1993 Sun Ra led The Arkestra a fluid collective that lived and played together under the despotic tutelage of their leader who claimed to hail from Saturn Their music was jazz but avant garde compositions in which players were instructed to adhere to a space key improvising without regard for conventional tonal centers was symptomatic of an altogether different direction in sound electronic music space music and free improvisation But Sun Ra s legendary status was earned as much for his eccentricities as for his unique artistic vision He developed and propagated a mystifying sci fi mythology which he weaved into both the music and Dadaist performances of The Arkestra performances which inspired artists as diverse as George Clinton and MC5 This book collects together for the first time interviews with Sun Ra the people that knew him and his contemporaries alongside illuminating essays and conversational pieces regarding his prolific musical output mystique philosophy fans and much more Contributions from Wayne Kramer Michael Simmons Ben Edmonds Amiri Baraka Rick Steiger David Henderson John Sinclair and others

**Sun Ra's Chicago** William Sites, 2021-01-11 Sites provides crucial context on how Chicago s Afrocentrist philosophy religion and jazz scenes helped turn Blount into Sun Ra Chicago Reader Sun Ra 1914-93 was one of the most wildly prolific and unfailingly eccentric figures in the history of music Renowned for extravagant performances in which his Arkestra appeared in neo Egyptian garb the keyboardist and bandleader also espoused an interstellar cosmology that claimed the planet Saturn as his true home In Sun Ra s Chicago William Sites brings this visionary musician back to earth specifically to the city s South Side where from 1946 to 1961 he lived and relaunched his career The postwar South Side was a hotbed of unorthodox religious and cultural activism Afrocentric philosophies flourished storefront prophets sold dream book bibles and Elijah Muhammad was building the Nation of Islam It was also an unruly musical crossroads where the man then known as Sonny Blount drew from an array of intellectual and musical sources from radical nationalism revisionist Christianity and science fiction to jazz blues Latin dance music and pop exotica to construct a philosophy and performance style that imagined a new identity and future for African Americans Sun Ra s Chicago shows that late twentieth century Afrofuturism emerged from a deep utopian engagement with the city and that by excavating the postwar black experience of Sun Ra s South Side milieu we can come to see the possibilities of urban life in new ways Four stars Sites makes the engaging argument that the idiosyncratic jazz legend s penchant for interplanetary journeys and African American utopia was in fact inspired by urban life right on Earth Spectrum Culture

**Sun Ra** Sun Ra, **The Wisdom of Sun-Ra** Sun Ra, 2006 From the Arkestra to his experiments with synthesizers Sun Ra was one of the most inventive jazz musicians in history Yet until now there has not been a collection of his earliest writings that reveal the

beginnings of his work as philosopher mystic and Afro Futurist This new volume unveils over forty newly discovered typewritten broadsheets on which Sun Ra expounded his wholly unique philosophical message While in Chicago during the mid 1950s Sun Ra preached on street corners and occasionally created scripts to accompany his lectures intricate texts that invoke science fiction Biblical prophecy etymology and black nationalism Until this point the only broadsheet known to exist was one given to John Coltrane in 1956 These newly unearthed writings attest to the provocative brilliance that inspired Coltrane Sun Ra annotated many of them by hand and together the sheets reveal fascinating new aspects of his worldview The Wisdom of Sun Ra is an invaluable compendium of writings by one of the most intriguing and influential jazz figures of the century

The Execution of Sun Ra Thomas Stanley,2014-04-01 One thing I learned from Sun Ra is that you take him lightly at your own peril He spoke of serious things and needs to be taken seriously The time is right for a new book on Ra and Thomas Stanley's is the right book You can never be certain with Sun Ra but I'm betting he'd have loved it John Szwed author of *Space is the Place The Lives and Times of Sun Ra* Sun Ra has an intrinsic instinct of music as language there is a sense of language being transmitted as code and this also translates from a trans African type of construct to something that could be construed as signals being sent in outer space he turns everything upside down in a gnostic type of way and his synthesis is one of the few and unique blends of jazz and mysticism Matthew Shipp pianist composer bandleader *Black Utopias* Jayna Brown,2021-01-11 In *Black Utopias* Jayna Brown takes up the concept of utopia as a way of exploring alternative states of being doing and imagining in Black culture Musical literary and mystic practices become utopian enclaves in which Black people engage in modes of creative worldmaking Brown explores the lives and work of Black women mystics Sojourner Truth and Rebecca Cox Jackson musicians Alice Coltrane and Sun Ra and the work of speculative fiction writers Samuel Delany and Octavia Butler as they decenter and destabilize the human radically refusing liberal humanist ideas of subjectivity and species Brown demonstrates that engaging in utopian practices Black subjects imagine and manifest new genres of existence and forms of collectivity For Brown utopia consists of those moments in the here and now when those excluded from the category human jump into other onto epistemological realms Black people untethered from the hope of rights recognition or redress celebrate themselves as elements in a cosmic effluvium

*Epistrophies* Brent Hayes Edwards,2017-06-05 Hearing across media is the source of innovation in a uniquely African American sphere of art making and performance Brent Hayes Edwards writes He explores this fertile interface through case studies in jazz literature both writings informed by music and the surprisingly large body of writing by jazz musicians themselves

**Geosonics** Joshua Dittrich,2024-08-08 How do we listen to the earth That is the central question posed in *Geosonics Listening Through Earth's Soundscapes* Working across sound studies media theory and environmental media studies Joshua Dittrich explores the material and metaphorical geology of the sonic environment In an epoch of climate crisis environment is no longer a neutral background site or simple surrounding environment is immanently implicated in the chains of mediation that make up the

material and imaginative infrastructure of our lives The analytical task of Geosonics is to tune into that infrastructure through sound Drawing on influential work in sound studies around the concept of transduction this book explores how listening does not take place in a pre existing soundscape but rather makes place by etching out a mediated mutually constitutive set of relations between listeners media and environments *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement* Verner D. Mitchell, Cynthia Davis, 2019-05-15 The Black Arts Movement BAM encompassed a group of artists musicians novelists and playwrights whose work combined innovative approaches to literature film music visual arts and theatre With a heightened consciousness of black agency and autonomy along with the radical politics of the civil rights movement the Black Muslims and the Black Panthers these figures represented a collective effort to defy the status quo of American life and culture Between the late 1950s and the end of the 1970s the movement produced some of America s most original and controversial artists and intellectuals In *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement* Verner D Mitchell and Cynthia Davis have collected essays on the key figures of the movement including Maya Angelou James Baldwin Amiri Baraka Nikki Giovanni Larry Neal Sun Ra Sonia Sanchez Ntozake Shange and Archie Shepp Additional entries focus on Black Theatre magazine the Negro Ensemble Company lesser known individuals including Kathleen Collins Tom Dent Bill Gunn June Jordan and Barbara Ann Teer and groups such as AfriCOBRA and the New York Umbra Poetry Workshop The Black Arts Movement represented the most prolific expression of African American literature since the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s Featuring essays by contemporary scholars and rare photographs of BAM artists *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement* is an essential reference for students and scholars of twentieth century American literature and African American cultural studies [The Funk Movement](#) Reiland Rabaka, 2024-10-23 Rabaka explores funk as a distinct multiform of music aesthetics politics social vision and cultural rebellion that has been remixed and continues to influence contemporary Black popular music and Black popular culture especially rap music and the Hip Hop Movement The Funk Movement was a sub movement within the larger Black Power Movement and its artistic arm the Black Arts Movement Moreover the Funk Movement was also a sub movement within the Black Women s Liberation Movement between the late 1960s and late 1970s where women s funk especially Chaka Khan and Betty Davis s funk was understood to be a form of Black musical feminism that was as integral to the movement as the Black political feminism of Angela Davis or the Combahee River Collective and the Black literary feminism of Toni Morrison or Alice Walker This book also demonstrates that more than any other post war Black popular music genre the funk music of the 1960s and 1970s laid the foundation for the mercurial rise of rap music and the Hip Hop Movement in the 1980s and 1990s This book is primarily aimed at scholars and students working in popular music studies popular culture studies American studies African American studies cultural studies ethnic studies critical race studies women s studies gender studies and sexuality studies

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