



Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah [formally Christian Scott]

BIO - short version

Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah [formally Christian Scott] is a two-time Edison Award-Winning, six-time Grammy Award-Nominated sonic architect, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, designer of innovative technologies and musical instruments (Adjuah Trumpet, Siren, Sirenette, and Chief Adjuah Bow, Chief Adjuah's N'Goni), Founder and CEO of the Stretch Music app company and record label, the face of the first-ever BMW XM starring in BMW's campaign of commercials commemorating the release of the new vehicle. And is the crowned Chieftain and OBA of the Xodokan Nation of the maroon tribes of New Orleans. He is the grandson of legendary Big Chief Donald Harrison Sr., and the nephew of jazz innovator and legendary saxophonist-composer, NEA Jazz Master Big Chief Donald Harrison, Jr. Since 2001 Adjuah has released thirteen critically acclaimed studio recordings, four live albums, and one greatest hits collection. According to NPR, Adjuah "Ushers in a new era of Jazz". He has also been heralded by JazzTimes Magazine as "Jazz's young style God." and "He is known for developing the harmonic convention known as the "forecasting cell" for his use of an un-voiced tone in his playing, emphasizing breath over vibration at the mouthpiece known as the whisper technique. Adjuah is also regarded as the progenitor of "Stretch Music," a jazz-rooted, genre-blind musical form that attempts to "stretch" jazz's rhythmic, melodic and harmonic conventions to encompass multiple musical forms, languages, and cultures. His innovations have garnered a PBS American Masters short "The New Chief", JAZZFM's Innovator/Innovation of the Year Award, Jazz Journalist Association Trumpeter of the year, The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, The Paul Ackett Award, Echo: Deutscher Musikpreis, Induction into the inaugural constituency of the Black Genius Brain Trust, a host of Downbeat Magazine's Critics and Readers Poll's wins for Best Composer, Best Trumpet, and Best Electric Jazz-Rock Contemporary Group, and The Changing Worlds Peace Maker Award.

BIO - long version

Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah [formally Christian Scott] is a two-time Edison Award-Winning, six-time Grammy-Nominated sonic architect, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, designer of innovative technologies and musical instruments (.Adjuah Trumpet, Siren, Sirenette, and Chief Adjuah Bow, Chief Adjuah's N'Goni), founder and CEO of the Stretch Music app company and record label, and crowned Chieftain of the Xodokan Nation of the

maroon tribes of New Orleans. He is the grandson of legendary Big Chief, Donald Harrison Sr., and the nephew of jazz innovator and legendary saxophonist-composer, Dr. Big Chief Donald Harrison, Jr. His musical tutelage began under the direction of his uncle at the age of thirteen. After graduating from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) in 2001, Adjuah received a full tuition scholarship to Berklee College of Music where he earned a degree in Professional Music and Film Scoring thirty months later.

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In 2017, Adjuah released three albums, collectively titled The Centennial Trilogy, that debuted at number one on iTunes. The album’s launch commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first Jazz recordings of 1917. The series is, at its core, a sobering re-evaluation of the social political realities of the world through sound. It speaks to a litany of issues that continue to plague the collective human experience, such as slavery in America via the Prison Industrial Complex, food insecurity, xenophobia, immigration, climate change, racial and sexual orientation, gender inequality, fascism, and the return of the demagogue.

The trilogy includes Ruler Rebel, Diaspora, and Emancipation Procrastination. Each recording vividly depicts Adjuah's new vision and sound via a new production methodology that stretches trap music with West African and New Orleanian Black Indian masking tradition musical styles. Ruler Rebel’s release coincided with the first annual Stretch Music Festival at Harlem Stage in New York. The Stretch Music Festival, created and curated by Adjuah for three consecutive years, explores the boundaries of Stretch, Jazz, Trap, and Alternative Rock with some of music’s most poised and fiery rising stars. The festival will resume its annual schedule in rotating global locations in 2022, in the post-pandemic live music world.

Adjuah released Ancestral Recall in 2019, which features poet laureate Saul Williams. Ancestral Recall aims to sharpen and expand upon its Stretch Music predecessors with a new focus on decolonizing sound. Both Emancipation Procrastination and Ancestral Recall were nominated for Grammy Awards in the Best Contemporary Instrumental Album category.

Axiom, Adjuah’s 2020 release, is a live album recorded at New York’s Blue Note Jazz Club at the start of the pandemic lockdowns in the U.S. Around the globe, fans and critics alike herald Adjuah’s live performance prowess. Notable highlights include a sold-out Carnegie Hall concert and NPR’s Jazz Night in America global broadcast. With Axiom, music fans hear Adjuah and his

stellar band live, once again. Adjuah is nominated for Grammy Awards in the Best Contemporary Instrumental Album category and for Best Improvised Jazz Solo for his performance on Axiom's "Guinevere. Although all releases since Adjuah's departure from Concord Records/Universal Music Group have earned top ten positions on Billboard Magazine jazz charts, the non-jazz classification of the last three Grammy album nominations substantiates Adjuah's vision for Stretch music as truly genre blind. Adjuah, the recipient of a number of prestigious honors, also won The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts in 2020.

Since 2006, Adjuah has worked with a number of notable artists, including Prince, Thom Yorke, McCoy Tyner, Marcus Miller, Eddie Palmieri, rappers Mos Def (Yasin Bey), and Talib Kweli, as well as heralded poet and musician Saul Williams. Adjuah scored his identical twin brother's and Director's Guild of America Award recipient, writer-director, and Spike Lee protégé, Kiel Adrian Scott's, Student Academy Award-nominated film, Samaria. Other recent film credits include the inclusion of Adjuah in the upcoming Bill and Ted Face the Music, starring Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter. He plays a member of The Future Council and contributes the music for Louis Armstrong's character. Adjuah is also featured in film and sound in the romantic comedy, The Photograph, starring Issa Rae. In 2022 Adjuah also became the face of the first-ever BMW XM starring in BMW's rollout and campaign of commercials commemorating the release of the new vehicle.

Additionally, through his partnership with Adam's Instruments, Adjuah designed a signature line of horns, the Siren, Sirennette, and Adjuah Trumpet/Reverse Flugelhorn, that are revolutionizing brass instrument design all over the world. His most recent musical instrument innovation is the new Chief Adjuah Bow, a custom kamele n'goni gravi-hybrid, which he will debut on his next recordings.

Adjuah is a scion of New Orleans' first family of art and culture, the Harrisons, and the grandson of legendary Big Chief, Donald Harrison Sr., who led four nations in the City's masking tradition. The HBO series, Treme, borrowed the storyline and the name "Guardians of the Flame" from the group Adjuah began "masking" as a member of with his grandfather in 1989. In 2018, Tulane University's acclaimed Amistad Research Center announced its archive of the Donald Harrison, Sr. legacy papers to highlight the Harrison/Scott/Nelson family's contributions to the arts, activism, and African diaspora cultural expressions. The Harrison family's story has been documented by Oscar-winning director, the late Jonathan Demme, in his post-Hurricane Katrina filmic works.

Dedicated to a number of causes that positively impact communities, Adjuah gives his time and talents in service to several organizations which garnered him a place in Ebony Magazine's 30 Young Leaders Under 30. He has supported or supports, through his time and talent, Each One Save One, NO/AIDS Task Force, Girls First, The Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame, Good Work Network, Black Lives Matter and numerous other community service organizations. Holding master classes, creating and participating in discussion panels, creating content, and purchasing instruments for youth music programs and individual youth musicians are all part of Adjuah's community-based work. He has worked with Guardians Institute in New Orleans' 9th Ward, which is dedicated to reading and fiscal literacy, cultural retention, and a firm commitment to the participation of community elders and artists in uplifting and supporting youths in underserved areas of New Orleans. Adjuah also currently sits on the Board of The NOCCA Institute. Since Adjuah's emergence on the jazz music scene, he has been a passionate and vocal proponent of human rights and an unflinching critic of injustices throughout the world.

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