

# Dawoud Kringle (a.k.a. Dawoud the Renegade Sufi)

Composer • Multi-Instrumentalist • Producer • Innovator

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## Artist Profile

A lifelong sonic explorer, Dawoud Kringle's career spans five decades traversing the terrains of rock, jazz, World, neo-classical, and electronic music. An accomplished guitarist, bassist, sitarist, and dilruba player, he is also the co-designer (with Jeff Slatnick and Andy Dowty of Limulus Musical Instruments) of the Dautar, a hybrid instrument that embodies his philosophy of ignoring genres and transcending barriers. Dawoud's reputation as an improviser is well known, and often improvises entire concerts. From international tours and major collaborations to film scores and multimedia works, his journey is a relentless pursuit of artistic truth through innovation and the blending of diverse traditions.

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## Music Career Highlights & Timeline

- 2024: Founded Renegade Mystic Music & Arts Productions (RMMAP) LLC. Released the album *The Power and the Longing*, the first to feature his invented instrument, the Dautar, as the primary voice.
- 2023: Commissioned the build of and began performing with the Dautar. Became a member of the improvisational ensemble Spaghetti Eastern Music.
- 2021: Began serious experimenting with music video production.
- 2019: Granted membership into the New York Composers Circle following the submission of an orchestral fantasia and two string quartets.
- 2012: First West Coast solo performances.
- 2004-Present: Pioneered a move away from traditional music venues by independently producing concerts at New York City locations like the Bowery Church, University of the Streets Theater, Under St Marks Theater, and WoW Cafe Theater and venues in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Milwaukee. Also performed at the Blue Note, Town Hall, the Apollo Theater, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and other prestigious venues in New York City.
- 2005: Released the album *Renegade Sufi* in Europe and the US, followed by well-received performances in Italy and France.

- 2004: First solo tour of Wisconsin and Illinois.
  - 1998-2005: Built his first home studio, began teaching at the Harlem School of the Arts and Bronx School of Music and Art, performed solo overseas for the first time (Paris, Milan, Zurich), and received international radio airplay.
  - 1992: Shifted artistic focus to jazz and Eastern music, embarking on tours of the Eastern US.
  - 1983: Relocated to New York City from his native Milwaukee, WI, working as a musician and musical director for local and touring rock groups.
  - 1979-1983: Toured the Midwest US with Focal Poynt and other bands as a multi-instrumentalist and composer.
  - 1970s: Began guitar at age 10; performed first professional and improvisational gigs at age 14.
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## Creative Works & Projects

### Discography (As Leader/Producer)

*The Power and the Longing* (2024) • *Ornaments* • *Chariot Between Worlds* • *Unseen Places* • *Wonder, Love, and Power* • *The SymphoSynth Improvisation Series* • *Music for Another Mind* • *A New Beginning* • *Tales From Isolation* • *A Mansion with Many Rooms* • *As Worlds Overlap* • *A Pearl in Wine* • *A Secret Odyssey* • *Apotheosis Now* • *The Legacy Collection* • *Journey of No Return* • *Renegade Sufi* (2005)

### Film Scoring

*The Courtship of Tara* (Wild Child Alien Films) • *Bling* (dir. Christian Varley) • *Life By The Drop* (dir. Myztico Chango) • *FiestaMania Goes Tutti Mundi* (w/ The Gypsy Grooves Orchestra) • *Sweet Dreams Momma* (dir. Dianne Kirksey) • *10 Forward* (dir. Khalid Sawaf) • *The Rose* (dir. Fareen Butt) • *RAM* (One Life Productions) • *The Life and Times of Omar Khayyam* (dir. Majid Beemtaha) • *Beyond Baklava* (Sunshine Star productions) • *One Voice; Our Youth* (dir. Muhammad Stewart) • *Where There's a Will, There's a Way* (Sunshine Star productions)

### Theater & Dance Composition

*Metamorphic Continuum* (dir. Farhana Akhter) • *1001 Nights: Love Stories from Death Row* (Kandake Dance Company) • *Indigenous Woman* (Muhayyideen Wisdom Theater) • *The Answer* (Najiullah Productions) • *It's Wake Up Time* (Bilal Family Productions) • *Windows* (Leon Azul Productions) • *The Brothers Karamazov* (Frost/Friedman Productions) • *Aerial Dance* (Dha-Fusion Productions)

### Writing & Publications

*Bedtime Stories for Musicians and Other People* (RMMAP / Mystic Jaz Publications, 2025)  
*A Quantum Hijra* & *A Mansion with Many Rooms* (2011 & 2015, presently out of print)

Dawoud's Soapbox Substack page <https://substack.com/@dawoudtherenegadesufi>  
Main contributor to [doobeedoobeedoo.info](https://doobeedoobeedoo.info) & [musiciansformusicians.org](https://musiciansformusicians.org) (2015-Present)

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## **Selected Collaborations & Performances**

Lauryn Hill • Nona Hendryx • Spaghetti Eastern Music • Keyna Wilkins • The Brooklyn Raga Massive All Star Orchestra • Abdou Mboup • Marie Alphonzo (Zap Mama) • Tom Chess • Brandon Terzic • Sohrab Sadaat Ladjavardi / SoSaLa • Kid Creole & the Coconuts • Ustad Muzallim Hussain • Jojo Kao (Fela Kuti) • Akim Funk Buddha • Daniel Carter • Sayyd Abdul Khabir (Duke Ellington / Count Basie) • Idries Muhammad • Melvin Sparks • Rahn Burton (Rahsaan Roland Kirk) • Junni Booth (Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Elvin Jones) • Larajji

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## **Education & Mentorships**

A lifelong student, Dawoud has studied with:

- Jazz Guitar & Theory: George Pritchett (Buddy Rich Orchestra), Kelvyn Bell, Pat Martino (Masterclasses)
  - Jazz Composition & Theory: Kaeef Ali, Dr. Yusef Lateef (Masterclasses)
  - Sitar & Raga Theory: Jeff Slatnick (student of Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan), Ustad Shaheed Parvez Khan
  - Raga Vocals: Michael Harrison (student of Pandit Pran Nath, Terry Riley)
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## **Additional Pursuits & Experience**

- Radio: Engineer (Multicultural Radio Broadcasting, 1996-Present);
- Radio Producer/On-Air Personality, "The Overnight Shift" (WPAT 930AM, 2018-20), "Deep Cuts with Dawoud" (WPAT 930AM, 2023-present).
- Audio Engineering: Live Sound for venues including The Bitter End, Kenny's Castaways.
- Recording Studio Engineer and in-house studio musician for Blue Chip Studios, Shadow Sound Studio.
- Teaching: Private Instructor; Faculty at Bronx School of Music and Art (2004-05); Substitute guitar teacher at Harlem School of the Arts (2002).
- Visual Art: Exhibited painter and multimedia artist whose work was featured in several gallery shows, including the curated show "On the Inner and Outer Worlds"

(2015). Produces his music videos using a variety of mediums and (often unorthodox) techniques.

- Became the first member and first board member of Musicians For Musicians (a musicians' rights activist foundation. 2015-present).
- Podcast co-producer and host of MFM Speaks Out (2018-2023).
- Held executive position with the United Muslim Musicians & Recording Artists (1995-99).
- Community Service: Served as Kateeb (Islamic religious provider, delivering sermons, leading prayer services, and informal counseling) with the NYC Department of Corrections (1998-2020) and Masjid al-Farah, NYC (2015-2020).
- Select Acting: Appearances in *Ghostbusters II*, *Stuart Little 2*, and an episode of *Life on Mars* ("My Maharishi Is Bigger Than Your Maharishi"). Supporting parts in *It's Wake Up Time* (Bilal Family Productions)