

#JASradio 20Nov2014 Featured Poet Tantra Zawadi & Guest Jimmy Lopez



What is sound? sound/noun

Vibrations that travel through the air or another medium and can be heard when they reach a person's or animal's ear.

For the 3rd edition of Just ADD Sound our goal was to entice you, excite you and stimulate you with vibrations traveling from the hearts and spirits of those who have chosen to share their ART with us in a variety of formats.

As will all things live, the November 20, 2014 show took on a personality of its own. In the studio we had our featured poet Tantra Zawadi, who performed some incredibly deep and stirring pieces for us, special guest, Percussionist Jimmy Lopez, founder of Soulful Cypher, Wyse Rodriguez and Soulful Cypher's resident DJ, Saint Sanchez and Visual Artist Warren Bryant. Co-producer and resident DJ, Soul opened up the show with JAS' adopted theme song, Love De-Luxe - Here Comes That Sound Again (Extended Mix - Long Version).

<http://youtu.be/K58XhqPj5Yo>

In between music, live percussions, live poetry and the interview, we slipped in a few pieces we wanted to share with our audience.

Carlos Andrés Gómez – Everything <http://youtu.be/QdHWVlpBGiY>

Carlos Andrés Gómez is an award-winning poet, actor, speaker, and writer from New York City. He is the author of the coming-of-age memoir [Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood](#), released by Gotham Books, an imprint of Penguin. Nominated for the Pushcart Prize and named Artist of the Year at the 2009 Promoting Outstanding Writers Awards, he costarred in Spike Lee's #1 movie *Inside Man* with Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster, and Clive Owen. He appeared in the sixth season of HBO's [Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry](#) and, most recently, in the third season of TV One's [Verses and Flow](#). He has headlined festivals all over the world, including Indonesia, South Africa, Ireland, Spain, Canada, the U.K., and as Guest of Honor at the Berlin International Literature Festival in Germany.

WEBSITE: <http://carloslive.com/>

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/carlosontour>

TWITTER PAGE: <https://twitter.com/carlosaglive/>

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ReadNex Poetry Squad - Be Dif'Rent <http://readnexpoetrysquad.bandcamp.com/>

ReadNex Reborn. Embracing the eternal tradition of conveying knowledge orally, audiences nationally and around the globe have been captivated and moved by the anti-apathetic stance of the group comprised of four spoken word poets/emcees and one D.J. Through the art of writing and the power of music, esteemed lyrical scholars Decora, FreeFlowin, Jarabe Del Sol, Latin Translator and DJ H2O continue to uplift urban communities with their universal message and sound influenced by Hip-Hop, Soul, Latin and Caribbean music.

Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/ReadNex-Poetry-Squad/164166276941441?ref=br_tf

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ReadNex>

Daydreamin' - Jill Scott - <http://youtu.be/7XOASTfv-v0>

Miss Jill Scott was born on April 4, 1972, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and raised as an only child by her mother and grandmother. She discovered the poetry of Nikki Giovanni in the 8th grade and was majorly inspired by her work, with Scott later enjoying writers like Octavia Butler and J. California Cooper as well. She also developed a passion for music and singing, taking to certain jazz and soul greats and learning the craft largely on her own.

Scott worked as a poet and attended Temple University with the intention of becoming a teacher, but left school to take up a drama apprenticeship.

Website: <http://missjillscott.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/missjillscott>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/missjillscott>

Una mas trio feat. Bajka-clear as water (hidden jazz quartett remix) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/clear-as-water-hidden-jazz/id586031120?i=586031122>

Bajka Pluwatsch, also known by her mononym and stage name Bajka, was born in India and raised in Portugal and South Africa. She is a poet, singer, producer, and songwriter. "Bajka" in Polish language means "fairy tale".

Bajka studied music in Prague. Her relationship with Asia remains the main theme of her poetry. She has performed spoken word poetry on several projects, including Bonobo and Radio Citizen, her latest solo record is called Bajka in Wonderland. In recent years, her role has moved from poet to singer and composer as well as producer. She is currently based in Berlin, Germany.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bajka.Music>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BajkaMusic>

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Tantra blazed the mic with a live performance of her original pieces with Jimmy Lopez providing organic background percussions.

About Jimmy Lopez

Hailing from Brooklyn, NY, is the Ethno Global-Groove fusion Percussionist/Drummer Jimmy Lopez. A Specialist in world percussion instruments, combining global ethnic playing techniques along with his diverse drum & percussion palette, which has led him to be the percussionist of choice for many artists, & has collaborated & toured regularly with popular musicians & groups. When not traveling, Jimmy is also a music educator in public schools for children & also generously shares his knowledge with fellow musicians.

“Currently Jimmy is the leader of his own musical projects “IndigeSoul” ” World Sound Traveler” & “Jimmy. Lopez. Project” (J. L .P), while continuing to collaborate with many artists in the industry.

Website: <http://jimmy-lopez.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JimmyLopezMusicProjects>

“About TANTRA-zawadi”

By Jack Cooper – Production Editor, Poets Wear Prada

A work of love — what Tantra-zawadi makes — what she achieves through her art, envisioning, she says, the “unseen reality.” A sublime soulfulness suffuses it, pungent like incense, subtle sinuous trans-formation shape-shifts as a genie might, rustled by a reedless wind. Its sizzle-cymbaled syzygy unites that, familiarly met, we thought we knew — blindness preceding a first kiss, bittersweet after — with a mastery of mood, trilled to transcendence, encouraging independence, womanly presence and voice, to embrace experience alongside others.

Comprehensive her exploration, with an awareness 360 and beyond, Tantra addresses the world and its poetry — poet to poet, enjoined in the present, evolving, through media, traditional and new, in print and performance, on the internet and off: visualizing word for the page, spoken on stage or before the camera, shaped to accompaniment by music — never diminished. Hers is a responsibility taken on behalf of others. Whom Brooklyn began enlivens a world; Tantra the artist is now sought and received.

Website: <http://www.tantra-zawadi.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZawadisHouse>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Tantrazawadi>

We attempted to keep to the official interview questions during the show. Luckily that the dimensions of the artist allowed for us to veer off course to add some impromptu questions, which Tantra graciously answered.

Here is the official interview with Tantra:

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Just ADD Sound (JAS) Looking at the diversity of your artistic interests and passions, can you tell us how you got started as a poet? What led you to take pen to paper and share your experiences?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) It began in elementary school (third grade to be exact), when I won third place in a poetry contest sponsored by a local bank. I loved to read from an early age, and poetry naturally resonated with me. It was soul-stirring and cutting edge. It had a unique rhythm, and touched upon sensitive subjects that folks were either unable or unwilling to speak of. These were voices of social awareness and insight that might otherwise have gone unheard. Poetry that addressed cultural and social experiences in America that had a direct impact upon me and the black power babies in my community! I felt uplifted and inspired, so I took pen to paper and regularly began to write in my teens. I never imagined that I would one day author a book of poetry, or meet some of my greatest poetic inspirations like Gil Scott-Heron, Abiodun Oyewole or Sonia Sanchez. I didn't see this coming at all.

Just ADD Sound (JAS) You're involved in mentorship and advocacy through your art. What causes are most dear to you? Where do you find that your art has the greatest impact in reaching people?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) I enjoy facilitating poetry workshops with young people, and also working with empowerment organizations like Girl-Child Network Worldwide (GCN) and The Senegal-America Project (SAP). I am a mentor for GCN founded by human rights advocate/poet/author and director, Princess Muzvare Betty Makoni, and share my creativity to raise awareness about issues impacting women and girls. Partial proceeds from my books go to GCN, and this past April, I received the honor of Pan African Princess by Princess Muzvare Betty Makoni and Princess Deun Adedoyin-Solarin (Chair, Board of Trustees/Official Spokesperson for GCN) at the official fundraising event in London.

The Senegal-America Project (an endeavor of global citizenship that brings people together through education, poetry, music and art), is also very dear to me. I love working with SAP founders/musicians Tony Vacca and Massamba Diop, and all of the people that are a part of the SAP family. Whether we are performing and teaching in Senegal or touring in America, we are connected!

At the moment, I believe my art has the greatest reach through music. Music transcends cultural differences and is something we all understand and vibe with. I love receiving feedback from people around the world who listen to my house music collaborations who wouldn't otherwise know my work. I've been a house music supporter for many years, and am thrilled to be on board as an artist. House music is one of my greatest passions!

Just ADD Sound (JAS) Looking through your expansive discography, you've worked with incredible producers and artists. What was a dream come true for you? What artist has inspired you and influenced you to do something that you wouldn't consider doing otherwise?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) Working with Josh Milan on the Raw Honey Poets "Happy" project, was an unexpected gift. He is easily one of the most influential and skillful artists in "house," and most definitely on my list of "dream" producers to work with. I have also been blessed to work with amazingly gifted producers like Groove Assassin, Jonny Montana and Dj Jeff Afrozila (just to name a few), who believe in me. I am so grateful for them all, and the supporters who keep house music alive.

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Three artists that have inspired me to do something I wouldn't consider otherwise are GCN founder and human rights advocate, Princess Muzvare Betty Makoni, poet/author/playwright Malika Ndlovu and singer/songwriter/artist Ernestine Deane. Princess Muzvare Betty Makoni inspired me to do something different with my art. She encouraged me to use my gifts in a mentoring capacity thereby allowing my life and creative experiences to serve as an inspiration to the girls of GCN. I am proud of their outstanding and ongoing achievements. Go girls!!

Malika Ndlovu (Badilisha Poetry X-Change Festival) and Ernestine Deane both inspired me to expand my vision to include global collaborations. My journey to Cape Town, South Africa in 2009 as a participant in the Badilisha Poetry X-Change Festival (and where I spent time with Malika and Ernestine), was the beginning of an amazing journey into the possibilities of global collaborations. When I returned stateside, I began working with several house music producers in South Africa and around the world. These powerful women brought me to the Motherland in thought, deed and poetry. They transformed my life and helped me to grow more fully as an international artist and conscious being. Meeting them has prepared me well for the work I am doing presently with The Senegal-America Project.

Just ADD Sound (JAS) Besides poetry/spoken word what other forms of art do you use to spread the message of love? What art forms are you exploring to develop further to get the message out?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) I directed two short documentaries ("Girl: The Film," Volume I and "A Silent Genocide: A Brief Insight into HIV/AIDS"). The latter was created as part of a poetry presentation I did at Stony Brook University for World AIDS Day in 2009; and "Girl: The Film" (A message from Ardija Red-Cloud), was created as a way to mentor girls by providing uplifting messages from female elders in our community. There are so many ways to send messages of love, and I am still discovering them. Not trying would be problematic for me.

Just ADD Sound (JAS) What's the process like working with a producer? How involved are you in the development of a project, a release?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) Each experience is different, but with advances in technology, it is really easy to work with producers from other countries because you can send your work back and forth on-line. I am very much involved in the recording process and care about what I present. I want to hear what "our" project sounds and looks like before it is officially released, and appreciate producers who value what I bring and are committed to the best musical balance for my voice/stories. While, talent and skill are naturally essential, so are the relationships we share as artists. Mutual respect is high on my list for a fulfilling creative exchange.

Just ADD Sound (JAS) Your poetry is available in print, as well as poetry over music. How different is the print publishing process from a digital release? What, if any, challenges are there in getting the word out about your printed work?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) Digital releases are undoubtedly more immediately accessible, but there's something about actual books (the paper, the binding, the imagination and the words in front of you), that are so precious to me. I just love to read, but see that more and more people are connected to their smart phones and want to do what they do on the go. One of my books "Gathered at Her Sky," is available for download on iTunes and I can see more of that happening in the future along with my books in print (available at most on-line bookstores).

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I am glad that some of my music collaborations are presented in a variety of formats (vinyl, CD and digital download), and like that my work is accessible in different ways.

Social networking is essential as well as solid promotions, book-signing events and frequent performances. I bring product with me to my live events, but the greatest forms of support are the people that love and believe in me. That is the absolute best!

Just ADD Sound (JAS) What's next for Tantra as a poet, artist, mentor, and advocate?

Tantra Zawadi (TZ) I have an adventurous spirit, and am open to where love leads. You know that special place where miracles are born and there is room for personal growth? That space where dreams come true and possibilities emerge? I don't like to plan every moment of my life or anticipate my every move. I like to #LiveLoveLife and watch it unfold. So, stay tuned!

Thank you for your beautiful support. I appreciate you all!

Peace and Love,

Tantra-zawadi

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JustADDSound>

Mobile Link to podcast:

Email: justaddsound@gmail.com

As Just ADD Sound continues to grow and develop, it promises to bring a unique perspective and attention to all forms of artistic expression.

Stay connected. Spread the word. Share the Wealth. Just ADD YOUR sound!

Just ADD Sound w/feat poet @Tantrazawadi & #PercussionistJimmyLopez

<http://bit.ly/1rwph0e>