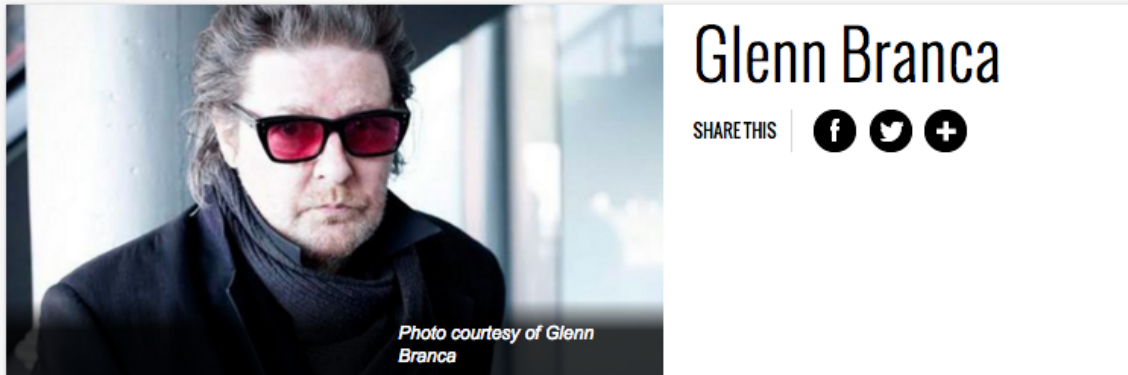


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by *Richard Gehr*

One of the late twentieth century's more influential examples of musical maximalism, guitarist-composer-conductor **Glenn Branca**'s 1981 masterpiece *The Ascension* laid the groundwork for high-volume, alternately tuned, feedback-friendly guitar groups like Sonic Youth, Swans, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, My Bloody Valentine, and countless lesser shoe gazers. Tonight's premiere of Branca's *The Third Ascension* signals both the durability and perseverance of his unusually coherent harmonic vision. Although this work for five guitars and drums is scaled down from his pair of 100-guitar symphonies, it promises to make up in volume what it might lack in personnel.