

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

## The Kitchen

For Immediate Release

January 20, 2015

### **THE KITCHEN WELCOME'S BACK AVANT-GARDE COMPOSER AND GUITARIST GLENN BRANCA TO PRESENT THE PREMIERE OF *THE THIRD ASCENSION*, FEBRUARY 23-24**

#### **Latest Development of Branca's Influential 1981 Work *The Ascension*, Featuring Reg Bloor, Arad Evans and Owen Weaver**

**The Kitchen** welcomes back American avant-garde composer and guitarist **Glenn Branca** after more than twenty years for the premiere of *The Third Ascension*, a new work for guitar, bass, and drums. Conducted by Branca, this piece is the latest development of Branca's influential 1981 work *The Ascension*, in which he experiments with resonances generated by alternate tunings for multiple electric guitars. Joining Branca will be **Reg Bloor**, **Brendon Randall-Myers**, **Luke Schwartz** and **Arad Evans** on guitar, **Greg McMullen** on bass, and **Owen Weaver** on drums. These shows will be recorded live for a subsequent album release. Artist **Richard Prince** has created a special poster for the concert, along with a limited-edition print.

As a founder of the bands **Theoretical Girls** and **Static** in the seventies, Branca's signature blend of hard rock with a contemporary music sensibility has earned him the title of "godfather of alternative rock." The importance of his music, particularly of *The Ascension*, is felt through the lasting impact it has made on its followers. In a 10.0-rated review of the album's 2003 reissue, *Pitchfork* writes, "from these bloodied guitar strings and twisted metal carnage you can discern not just the euphoric guitar bliss of everyone from Sonic Youth to My Bloody Valentine, but also the mighty crescendos of Sigur Rós, Mogwai, Black Dice, Godspeed You Black Emperor!, or whomever, here executed with a plasma-like energy and melodic/harmonic structure still light-years beyond the forenamed." The album has been called "one of the greatest rock albums ever made" (*All Music*) and "simply essential 20th-century music" (*Tiny Mix Tapes*).

Reworked from a recent iteration as part of the Bang on a Can marathon, *The Third Ascension* features the world premiere of new work "German Expressionism," as well as a revised "Cold Thing (La Belle Dame sans Merci);" the U.S. premiere of "Velvets and Pearls;" "The Smoke (Guitar Concerto for Arad Evans)," a commission by the members and friends of The Glenn Branca Ensemble, made possible by The Silent Barn; as well as two previously performed works, "Lesson No. 4" and "Twisting in Space."

*The Third Ascension* will take place on February 23 at 7pm and 9pm, February 24 at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at [www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org); by phone at 212.255.5793 x11; or in person at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street), Tuesdays – Saturdays, 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Branca is considered by many to be one of the most influential living composers, both in the fields of alternative and experimental rock, as well as contemporary classical music. Over his 40 year career, his body of work has come to include music for experimental rock bands, large ensemble instrumentals for electric guitars, 16 symphonies for both electric instrumentation and acoustic orchestras, chamber ensemble pieces for a wide variety of instrumentation (both electric and acoustic), an opera, a ballet, choral works and music for film, dance, theater and installation art. His ensemble has done hundreds of performances all over the world. He's released 14 full-length albums as well as works included in a number of compilations. His work has inspired and influenced two generations of composers and musicians, including major rock stars like **Sonic Youth**, to Academy Award-winners, to Pulitzer Prize composers, among many others.

#### **Funding Credits**

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

*The Third Ascension* is made possible with endowment support from Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, annual grants from The Amphion Foundation, Inc., The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts. “The Smoke (Guitar Concerto for Arad Evans)” was commissioned by members and friends of The Glenn Branca Ensemble and made possible by The Silent Barn.



## **About The Kitchen**

The Kitchen is one of New York City’s most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country, and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

**Facebook: [facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC](https://www.facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC)**

**Twitter: [twitter.com/TheKitchen\\_NYC](https://twitter.com/TheKitchen_NYC)**

**For more information, please contact Blake Zidell, Ron Gaskill or Matt Gross at Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com), [ron@blakezidell.com](mailto:ron@blakezidell.com) or [matt@blakezidell.com](mailto:matt@blakezidell.com).**