

KONGORIKISHI.COM



SHINKONGO

音楽の限界を突破
PUSHING BOUNDARIES IN MUSIC
突破音楽的界限

In the post-apocalyptic wasteland of music, we can either fight for it to survive and evolve or let it perish...

The legend of music at the end of civilization. 20XX. The world was engulfed by nuclear flames. The oceans dried up. The Earth withered and tore. All music seemed dead. However, it survived...

Has only one unit on Earth capable of warping time and space using odd meters, polymetrics, time-displacement and metric modulation in music survived?

Can they find each other in the desolate wasteland and reunite, warping space and time to go back and make things right?

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

It took awhile and there have been many years of holding back to find the right people who could perform the music properly, as well as numerous further setbacks. However, after eventually taking the risk of setting up a small studio and some video shooting equipment, it was finally time to take action, before it's too late.

Since then, the debut album "Zero" has been recorded. It consists of 12 songs. 10 original and 2 rearranged covers important to the story and context of the album. Additionally, an accompanying EP has been recorded, consisting mainly of cover songs (5 covers, 1 original) that have also been rearranged in Kongo style. Because this concept is new to the world (although not to us as it has been in the works for a long, long time), the accompanying covers EP is intended to gather some audience using material people might be familiar with, so that the original material, when released, does not go to waste as too much has gone into it for it not to launch running.

The idea is to produce albums regularly, along with a music video for each song, since in current times it is necessary to have a wealth of content available to promote. These music videos will all share some connection to a greater universe and overarching story (featuring themes including a nuclear apocalypse, time-travel, alternate dimensions, alien bio-technology and human psychology). They will also be connected by story videos. All of this is intended to be accompanied by touring, since the live set will be the most important part. In fact, the whole point of the concept is to facilitate a situation where this band concept can realistically tour, as it requires a certain level of scale to be plausible, due to the nature of the music and partly due to the fact that it cannot be done without musicians based in different locations.

WHAT IS KONGO?

The Kongo band concept was originally intended to be Hong Kong's first world-class fusion band, but has since become international now that the line-up consists of world-class players Chris Brien (drums & percussion) and Jon von Boehm (bass), who after many years of searching and performing, ended up being the only two people Kongo (guitar & vocals) could recruit that would do the music justice, with the ability to perform it as it should be.

A power-trio consisting of three musicians, all pushing the limits of their craft and passionate about making music to the highest possible standard, Kongo is a one of a kind band, carefully designed to push the boundaries of music and reshape perceptions of what is possible and acceptable in music, not just in Hong Kong or Asia, but worldwide. Most music stays within very limited boundaries. We hope to gradually help more people understand it's endless possibilities.

WHAT DOES THE MUSIC REPRESENT?

While it cannot be placed squarely into a category, Kongo's music could be considered "fusion" and combines elements of rock, blues, jazz, funk and more with Afro-Cuban / Latin and African rhythms. In reality though, it is more akin to a dissolution of boundaries. The music combines raw feel and energy with technical prowess, incorporating odd time signatures, along with in future, occasional polymeters, metric modulation, time-displacement and other such methods of space-time manipulation, whilst packaging them in a way that can be accessible to mainstream audiences. This can offer a good experience to both general audiences and those that are knowledgeable about music.

With a mission to put serious music and musicianship into the mainstream, the songs are infectious and memorable, yet demonstrate high levels of skill and are designed to gradually expose mainstream audiences to progressively more advanced and varied forms of music, arranged in a way they can appreciate and digest.

WHAT DOES KONGO MEAN?

Kongo Rikishi are two wrathful and muscular guardian deities standing at the entrance of temple gates. They represent duality, dichotomy, the beginning and the end. The birth and death of all things. The birth and death of the universe. All encompassing, without limitation.

HOW IS THE MUSIC PRESENTED?

RECORDED: Packaged in a commercially digestible format, without compromising the musicianship.

LIVE: Performances are extended, with improvised solos and virtuoso performances, highlighting all members and pushing the boundaries of music.

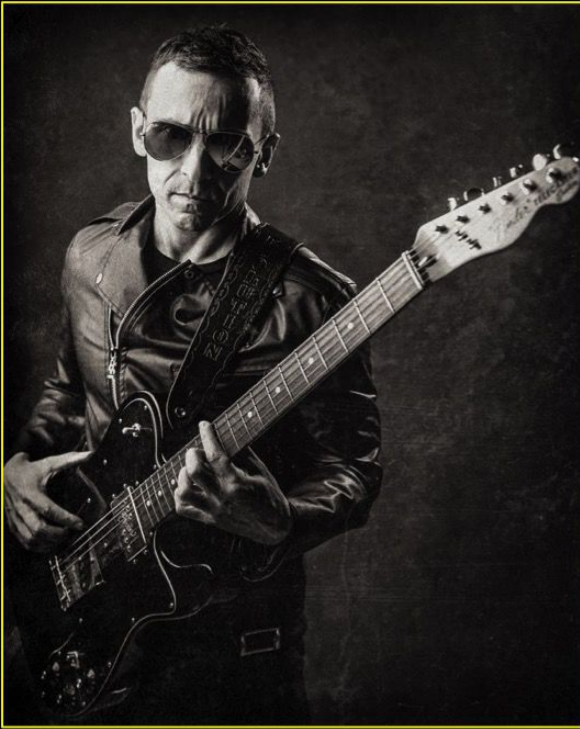
VIDEO: Music will be released with accompanying videos that are part of a greater, interconnected universe and overarching story.

WHO ARE THE CURRENT MEMBERS?

Wandering the post-apocalyptic wasteland, Kongo knew his only hope to re-ignite the flame of music would be to find the two individuals that could successfully warp space and time in order to correct the course of history...

Chris Brien, who is known as "The Octobeast", due to his unique ability to use multi-limb independence like nobody else in order to manipulate time and space at will. Other bands have a whole percussion section. We have an Octobeast.

Jon Von Boehm, known as "Funky Dunkleosteus" whose bass skills are second to none is a pioneer of extreme technique, but used appropriately depending on the musical context. See more about each musician on subsequent pages!



WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

After many years building up from nothing on the Hong Kong scene, Kongo finally set up his own recording facilities and learned to produce commercial recordings, start to finish in order to record his material, as well as investing in video gear and learning to shoot, edit, etc. Release-ready albums can be regularly completed and he has enough material to keep recording and releasing for many years to come without running dry, as well as composing continuously. Everything can be handled in-house, all the way from composition and arrangement to editing, mixing and finally mastering.

We can also produce music videos, however we are limited by budget in our current circumstances, but a fair amount of shooting and post-production can be done. It also goes without saying that we can provide explosive live performances and set the stage on fire for hours if permitted. In fact, the live set is intended to be the most important part of the concept.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Since the limit of what we can afford has been reached with investment in studio recording facilities, a little help with the production of music videos would be beneficial, but more importantly we need help with release, distribution, promotion and management to reach the global mainstream commercial market, as well as arranging touring and getting performance bookings, festivals, etc. All these are beyond the scope of what I can handle on my own, not only financially, but also in terms of skillset and reach. I can deliver a lot of product and this is what I excel at. These other areas I neither excel at, nor have the network or facility to perform within effectively. We have everything covered on the music and content side, from performance to production and we can work efficiently, but need assistance with the rest.

THE VISION

Kongo's goal has always been to assemble a world-class "super-band" to perform his music and release albums, along with global touring. His vision is to put serious music and musicianship into the mainstream and bring more diversity to general audiences.

THE BAND

A power-trio featuring world-class musicians Chris Brien and Jon von Boehm, each person in the unit has their own unique character, is at the pinnacle of their craft and is passionate about making music to the highest possible standard. A one of a kind band with music designed to contribute to reshaping the music industry, raising standards and expanding the boundaries of what kinds of music are accepted into mainstream culture.

THE STORY

Originally intended to be Hong Kong's first world-class band and it's first act that could be internationally marketed, this proved impossible since nobody in Hong Kong could perform the music after years of attempts to assemble such a unit. Eventually, it became inevitable that it must become a truly international concept. The standard and support for music is virtually non-existent compared with other places. Furthermore, bands or artists who fall outside the single style of music that is accepted and those who are not perceived as "local", even if they actually are, are blocked from many opportunities, as well as not being permitted to have mainstream careers. There are work opportunities, but these are limited to musician-for-hire roles and performance in certain types of venues, therefore musicians cannot dedicate time and resources to original music and developing careers in their own right. In an environment like this there is no chance for non-Cantonese pop artists to pave their own way. This is why Kongo decided to take matters into his own hands and is also why we need help to take things to the next level.

Along the way, Kongo was fortunate to eventually meet Australian powerhouse drummer and percussionist Chris, resident in Hong Kong and thus could finally enlist a comrade to perform the music without limitations. It was a breath of fresh air to meet someone that could perform any music, effortlessly, regardless of technicality. Unfortunately, even after a few more years it proved impossible to come across even a third person able to do the same.

After exhausting all other possibilities and finally accepting it was never going to be possible to limit the concept to locally based talent, Kongo eventually managed to reach a position whereby he could set up his own recording facilities and enlisted the best musicians for his concept, regardless of location, rather than the most convenient. This led to recruiting American virtuoso bassist Jon to join the fray. Although having members in different locations poses further challenges, especially during current global circumstances, it resulted in the best combination of personnel. Kongo finally recorded the first album, entitled "Zero", as well as more material for the future and hopes to team up with partners possessing adequate resources to release and promote material in order to reach audiences on a wider scale, as well as make touring a reality, since that is a major part of the concept.

THE MISSION

To reach a position of releasing music regularly, on a wide scale, accompanied by video content and touring, marketed in a substantial manner so that the material is not wasted and in a way that does justice to all the sacrifices made along the way. Each song released is also intended to have an accompanying music video, as well as connecting videos, all of which are part of a greater interconnected universe and story. Since video is essential for promotion in current times, we are confident this is the way forward and is something that nobody seems to have done so far in the music industry. We can produce all this if we have further support. The first original album has already been recorded, along with a cover EP to gain audience before releasing the album. In order to stay ahead of the game, material for future albums is already in production.

THE MUSIC

Pushing boundaries in music, the material performed cannot easily be put into one category; however, we have tried to define it here. The music combines elements of rock, blues, jazz, funk, Afro-Cuban / Latin rhythms and more. Raw feel and energy melds with technical prowess, incorporating various musical methods of space-time manipulation whilst packaging them in an accessible way for mainstream audiences. For the sake of communication, if the music must be categorized it could be considered "rock-fusion" in it's current form.

The songs are infectious and memorable yet demonstrate high levels of skill, featuring a masterful rhythm section and are designed to gradually expose mainstream audiences to progressively more advanced and varied forms of music, arranged in a way they can appreciate and digest. The live set is designed to take things to yet another level, with exciting extended virtuoso performances featuring all the musicians involved.



KONGO

日文: 金剛力士

中文: 石義山

Kongo is a guitarist, vocalist and composer. He has performed professionally in Hong Kong for over a decade and is unique there as a fusion musician with the ability to cross over into many genres. Kongo has performed with the best musicians in Hong Kong in various roles and situations, sometimes as band-leader and sometimes as hired musician. He has performed hundreds of shows over more than a decade.

His mission is to assemble a band of world-class musicians to perform his music and bring high levels of skill, musicianship, creativity and emotional content into the mainstream and make them the norm, both in Asia and internationally. His intention is to push and break boundaries, exposing people on a wider scale to kinds of music that would not typically make it onto the mainstream radar whilst creating something new and unique in the process. He intends to do this by packaging and arranging the music in a digestible format, suitable for a wider audience, without compromising musical integrity.

Studio Duties In Kongo Band

Guitar, Lead Vocals, Backing Vocals, Composer, Arranger, Band Leader, Producer, Recording Engineer, Mixing Engineer, Mastering Engineer, Video Director, Video Editor

Live Duties In Kongo Band

Guitar, Lead Vocals, Composer, Arranger, Band Leader, Music Director

A few of the artists he has worked with include:

Alex Lam (林德信), Dominic Chow (周啟生), AGA (江海迦), Chris Brien, Carnivale Latin Band, Chris Polanco & Azucar Latina, Donald Ashley (唐龍), Prof. Zhang Zhi Yong (張智勇), Prof. Joao Marcos Mascarenhas, Gretchell Yaneza (楊麗珊), David Chala, Lee Yat Ding (李一丁), Alex Katsumata, Tsang Tak Hong (曾德康), Jun Kung (恭碩良), Alfred Hui (許廷鏗), C. Y. Leo (何卓彥) and more.

CHRIS BRIEN (AKA "THE OCTOBEAST")

日本語: クリス・ブライエン

中文: 百樂文

Chris Brien is an international drumset artist, percussionist, author, composer, percussionist, educator and clinician. The multi nominated ARIA award, MO award, Oz Music award performer and TED speaker has performed and recorded with many of the biggest names in Australian music and has performed with internationally acclaimed artists, in theatre productions and in clinics alongside many of the biggest names in drumming. He has trained some of Australia and Hong Kong's best drummers and is recognized in many parts of the world as the master of independence. Chris was also a member of the Australian hit band Swoop, appearing on three albums and has extensive experience touring, in particular Australia and Japan.

Chris is a master of odd-time, polyrhythmic drums and percussion, multi-limb independence and other advanced forms of rhythmic manipulation. He is one of a kind and brings his unique flavor to this music. There is nobody else that could take his place and he is essential to the performance of Kongo's music. Chris and Kongo have worked together on virtually every project and performance they have done since they met in 2015, aside from instances where they were called to play in other people's projects separately.

Studio Duties In Kongo Band

Drums, Percussion

Live Duties In Kongo Band

Drums, Percussion, Backing Vocals

A few of the artists he has worked with include:

Swoop, Russell Crowe, Kylie Minogue, Deni Hines, Jenny Morris, Grinspoon, The Sick Puppies, Heval (World Music Band Of The Year, Oz Music Awards, 2006), Kongo, Yao Jue (World Renowned Shanghainese Violinist), Elisa Chan (陳潔靈), Eason Chan (陳奕迅), Rubberband and more.

His drumming has also been featured on Hong Kong Television, as well as Australian TV shows Home & Away, Neighbors and All Saints.



JON VON BOEHM (AKA "JvB")

日本語: ジョン・ヴォン・ベーム

Jon von Boehm is a busy in demand bass player from Nashville, Tennessee. Playing in churches at a young age is where he learned how to perform in a live setting with other musicians. From that point on he was forever hooked. In his late teens Jon discovered jazz and started playing the music with seasoned musicians three times his age. At the same time he started working in studios, playing on sound tracks for television shows and commercials. During this time he was also working with many other local artists in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he grew up.

Prior to his move to Nashville, he spent time in Florida studying with bass guitar great Jeff Berlin who was already one of his biggest influences. While there, Jon started working with many other musicians in the Tampa area, which kept him on top of his game. In the midst of his busy schedule there he was balancing musical studies at the Players School of Music.

Jon has stepped out on his own recently with his first self-titled release, which features some of the best musicians in Nashville and others from abroad. As of late, he has been busy as a band leader, as well as collaborating with other artists, which has brought him acclaim from his peers and reviewers.

Jon is known for his technical ability, but still retains a passionate fluid style where the song always comes first. Jon continues to stay busy on the road, in the studio, and doing clinics.

Studio Duties In Kongo Band
Bass

Live Duties In Kongo Band
Bass, Backing Vocals

A few of the artists he has worked with include: Dylan Taylor, Aly Cutter Band, Romeo Hill, Sweet Honey, Ragan Rae, Lara Landon, Dillon Dixon, Denny Jiosa, Dann Glenn, Kongo, Bryan Clark, Will Champlin, Brittini Black, The Jiosa On The Edge Project (Co-Writer), 251 Jazz Trio, The Spitting Image, Jazz in Your Faith, Mannah, Westbrook, Josh Paulson, The Other I, Kenny Zarider and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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"The first time I saw Esan was years ago when his band was playing at a bar. I just walked in randomly and saw him solo for days! Clean, solid timing and tone. Shortly after, we started gigging together around town. I always appreciated his punctuality, ability to play any song, attention to detail and generosity. He is a very sharing artist and is always willing to explain his musical wisdom (and fitness tips). A reliable band mate and a dependable, funny friend."

Regarding the band. A great live vibe! Fun arrangements that make you wanna move and make you feel excited! They are great live performers and their concept can teach you a lot about music theory!"

Alex Lam 林德信 (Singer, Composer, Actor, Model) – Hong Kong – Universal Recording Artist



"As an artist working to bring Latin music into the scene, I understand how much Hong Kong needs the chance to embrace different kinds of music. So many great things could happen if support for music can increase. I have known and worked with Kongo, the guitarist for many years. His fiery playing and understanding of rhythmic concepts is second to none. He is pioneering fusion music here and I hope very much to see him gain support and succeed in his vision and in creating diversity in Hong Kong."

I have seen the Kongo, the band in person and joined in a few times. It is definitely an explosive and powerful experience. To say it is unique, especially locally is a massive understatement."

Chris Polanco 陳杰 (Touring Musician, Percussionist, Keyboardist/Pianist, Singer, Composer, Producer, Music Director, Band Leader) – Hong Kong

Eason Chan Duo Band, Jacky Cheung, Coco Lee, Joey Yung, Andy Lau, George Lam, Alex Lam, Alan Tam, Kenny Bee, Wynners, Rubberband, Maria Cordero, Jun Kung, Sandy Lam and more.



"Whenever I need a guitar player, Kongo is the first name on my list! He is an incredibly versatile guitarist who can handle anything I throw at him, no questions asked. He has amazing tone, technique timing and most importantly, musicianship. With his band he does fantastic fusion and arrangements that take the listener on a surreal musical journey. Keep an eye out for Kongo..."

Jordie Guzman (Touring Musician, Recording Musician, Bassist, Percussionist, Singer, Composer, Producer, Recording Engineer, Mixing Engineer, Music Director, Band Leader) – Hong Kong

Coco Lee, Alex Lam, Maria Cordero, Sandy Lam, Moshup and more.



"Dedicated, kind, fiercely skilled, humble and a true visionary. That's how I would describe Kongo as an Artist and Musician."

He is one of the most big-hearted and versatile guitarists I know, effortless and crisp in the way he plays and improvises. His heart and talent is a gift to our world!"

Gretchell Yaneza 楊麗珊 (Singer, Composer, Artist, Singer-Songwriter, Actress, Producer, Spiritual Healing Facilitator) – Hong Kong – Asia Millionstar singing champion & recording artist.



"Kongo is the most amazing guitarist I have seen in Hong Kong and have ever played with. His technique is incredible and he can play any kind of complex line or melody, which most guitarists cannot play seriously or accurately. His timing is impeccable and his solos are masterful. It is always extremely fun and challenging to play with him, a mature musician that can perform comfortably in any style. With reference to what I have seen of Kongo's band, I must say that the playing is truly awesome and it is an asset to Hong Kong to have an act like this."

Prof. Zhang Zhi Yong 張智勇 (Music Professor, Touring Musician, Recording Musician, Saxophonist, Flautist, Composer) – Hong Kong

Dominic Chow, Jacky Cheung and more.



"I met Esan during a gig when I was subbing for Chris Polanco on keys in Jordie Guzman's band. His versatility in playing Latin pop / rock songs with consistent tempo and really good groove caught my ear right away. I remember him making an excellent improvised solo that captivated the audience. I thought, "this guy is not kidding!" After that gig, we stayed in touch and the opportunity to work together again came when he invited me to one of his rock fusion projects in which we played his originals and rhythmically complex songs from the legendary Mahavishnu Orchestra. Several of these songs have odd time signatures, like 15/8, 11/8 and so on. Esan's technique on the execution of these difficult pieces associated with his passionate playing really made the music reach an incredible energy level! Consequently, the band rocked the night!"

His artistry indeed enriches the music scene in Hong Kong. Besides, this great artist is also a great person, friend and a man of responsibility, passion and wisdom."

Prof. Joao Marcos Mascarenhas, PhD (Music Professor, Keyboardist/Pianist, Composer, Arranger, Producer, Band Leader, Educator) – Brazil, Macau

Randy Brecker, Balaio and more.



"During the past 4 decades, I have had the good fortune of collaborating with some of the best musicians in the world. In saying this, Esan Shi (Kongo) is the BEST guitarist / composer I have ever worked with. It is a total blessing that Esan is also my best friend. Our musical connection is telepathic..."

Chris Brien 百樂文 (Drummer, Percussionist, Recording Artist, Recording Musician, Touring Musician, Instructor / Educator, Clinician, TED X Speaker, Author) – Hong Kong, Australia



"If I had not met Chris Brien I would never have been able to perform my music as it was meant to be. His mastery of odd meters, polymeters & polyrhythms, displacement and his understanding of rhythms from all kinds of music and cultures, combined with his multi-limb independence is unparalleled. Double kick is also a major part of my compositions and I have never seen anyone on Earth handle it like he does, including inhuman double-stroke roll techniques. I have yet to encounter any drummer who can do it, making Chris irreplaceable.

There is also nobody that has this level of independence and can take care of drum and percussion duties at the same time, which is another important element of my music! It's like having a whole Santana drum & percussion section (and more) in one person!"

Kongo 石義山 (Guitarist, Vocalist, Composer, Arranger, Producer, Band Leader) – Hong Kong



"Chris Brien is one of my favorite drummers in the world. I have always been inspired by his creative playing and his incredible technique and independence. Chris has an absolutely unique approach to drumming and an unmistakable sound. I have used his book "Progressive Rhythms" for inspiration and for teaching my students as well and I am looking forward to getting my hands on his latest work."

Thomas Lang (Drummer, Recording Musician, Touring Musician, Composer, Producer) – Los Angeles, California USA / UK

Paul Gilbert (Racer X/Mr. Big) John Wetton (Asia/King Crimson), Robert Fripp, Glenn Hughes (Deep Purple), Peter Gabriel, Asia, Nik Kershaw, Tina Turner, Robbie Williams, Kelly Clarkson, Sugababes, Geri Halliwell, Emma Bunton, Victoria Beckham, Ronan Keating, Steve Hackett (Genesis), 911, Boyzone, Falco, Nina Hagen, Bill Liesegang, Steve Jones, Mick Jones, the Commodores, George Michael, Doogie White, B*Witched, Gianna Nannini, Lighthouse Family, Westlife, Kylie Minogue, the Blockheads, Sertab Erener, Schwarzenator, Vinnie Valentino, Page Hamilton (Helmet), Marc Bonilla (Montrose), Greg Howe, Jens Lindemann, Vienna Art Orchestra, Bonnie Tyler and Nadine Beller and more.



"Like Virgil Donati and Grant Collins, Australia's Chris Brien is a percussive one-man-band Wonder From Down Under. Brien's impressively packaged eighteen-page hardcover CD booklet (in English and Chinese) is not to be outdone by his seventeen rhythmically outrageous first-take tracks. Realizing that there are no overdubs makes these complex yet musical drumset compositions all the more inspiring.

Mike Haid – (Modern Drummer Magazine) – USA



"After trying to find a bassist in Hong Kong capable of performing my concept for over a decade, I ended up realizing it was impossible. I accepted this had to be done the hard way and I must use someone overseas. I figured if it's that's the case it might as well be the best! Getting Jon on board was the obvious choice. In fact, I don't know why I didn't just skip all that trouble and do it long ago!

Recording my first album was a breeze with him. The material that nobody could handle is child's play to him. His work ethic is also exceptional. What nobody else could do in over a decade, he did in less than a month! Personally he is my number one choice. This is what you call a world-class musician. Nothing less!"

Kongo 石義山 (Guitarist, Vocalist, Composer, Arranger, Producer, Band Leader) – Hong Kong



"I consider Jon von Boehm a boundless, sonic oasis in a world of noise — the exception to every rule.

The guy doesn't get nearly enough respect in the music industry. He's a very much in-demand sideman, session player, and individual jazz artist who can literally play the shit out of anything — all while pulling out these amazing pockets of musical isolation and encroaching multi-dimensional mood, assembling and collapsing the rhythm on a moment's notice."

Carol Banks Weber (Medium.com) – USA



Kongo is one of the greatest guitar players I have seen in my life. He has sharp rhythmic sense, is flexible and is very responsive in any kind of musical situation. The first time I played music with him was doing his compositions which were a unique concept. A progressive mixture of fusion, rock, funk, etc. I played with him in many situations and venues doing fusion, technical rock music and more. No matter what kind of music we did, he was an impressive guitarist.

He has a strong memory and wonderful melodic sense. One day I just played a Casiopea song riff and he suddenly responded instantly and finished the song. I was shocked. We then discussed Japanese fusion music in depth. He had an in depth knowledge of a wide range of Japanese fusion and other music. Kongo has a great wealth of musical knowledge, sense and of course great skill on guitar. I could ask him to play any kind of music and he would be able to handle it.

Alex Katsumata 勝俣乃一 (Bassist, Guitarist, Composer, Instructor) – Tokyo Japan, Hong Kong

George Lynch, Vivian Chow, Donald Ashley and more.



I first met Kongo around 13 years ago, the soft spoken gentleman and versatile guitarist, known for many styles from blues to classic rock to the fusion era with a charismatic performance style and fantastic playing skills. Regarding Kongo's powerhouse trio, it features a fantastic bassist and the monster drummer Chris Brien. It reminds me of The Cream, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, The Police, Grand Funk Railroad, etc., but combined with the odd meter style of John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra and rhythms of Santana. Kongo's power trio is the ONLY band in Hong Kong that can do this.

Tsang Tak Hong 曾德康 (Bassist, Composer, Arranger, Recording Musician, Touring Musician) – Hong Kong – Premier Jazz Musician In Hong Kong



"Kongo is a stellar guitar player and Hong Kong is very lucky to have a musician like him in their presence. His ability to play night after night and still have fresh ideas is very impressive. His current Kongo band project is one of my favorites to follow. Not only is he a gifted musician but he is also a great businessman as well. He's an awesome band leader and would make a great musical director for any artist he works with. Can't wait to have him on some of my future projects."

Jon Von Boehm (Bassist, Composer, Arranger, Recording Musician, Touring Musician, Producer, Music Director, Band Leader) – Nashville TN USA

Aly Cutter Band, Romeo Hill, Sweet Honey, Ragan Rae, Lara Landon, Dillon Dixon, Denny Jiosa, Dann Glenn, Bryan Clark, Will Champlin, Brittini Black, The Jiosa, On The Edge Project, 251 Jazz Trio, The Spitting Image, Jazz in Your Faith, Mannah Westbrook, Josh Paulson, The Other, Kenny Zarider and more.



I first met Esan (Kongo) just 10 hours before we commenced a six-month residency together at a popular venue in Lan Kwai Fong! My intended accompanist was taken seriously ill the night before our first performance and I had a fully booked show to perform. I'd never met Esan in person but I reached out to him to see if he could help and that day we met for the first time, learning 45 new songs together and performed a successful show that same night! We went on to play the entire residency together and as a musical partner I found him generous, reliable, incredibly dedicated to every performance and exceptionally talented, both as an accompanist and as a guitar soloist. We remain close friends, supportive of each other's work and musical achievements.

Esan's original work is inspired and he works tirelessly to bring a unique brand and style of music to his audiences. His band is formed of other highly competent musicians who all have great energy on stage. Esan and his band are important contributors to the Hong Kong live music scene and are deserving of every support.

Karen Linker (Singer, Songwriter, Private Function Entertainer, Corporate Events Entertainer, Vocal Coach) – Hong Kong, Las Vegas NV USA, Australia, United Kingdom, Germany

Vocalist at premium events in Hong Kong and overseas.



Upcoming Kongo Discography (Featuring All Three Musicians)

- Kongo – "Breaking Free" (1st EP) – Production complete. Not yet released. EP consisting of mainly cover songs to gain awareness.
Kongo – "Zero" (1st Album) – Production complete. Not yet released. Album consisting mainly of original songs.
Kongo – "Viral Funk" (2nd EP) – Production in progress. Not yet complete. EP consisting mainly of cover songs to increase awareness.
Kongo – "Devonian Seas" (2nd Album) – Production in progress. Not yet complete. Album consisting completely of original songs.
Kongo – "Hanging On" (3rd EP) – Production in progress. Not yet complete. EP consisting mainly of original songs.
Kongo – "Trial By Gaslight" (3rd Album) – Production in progress. Not yet complete. Album consisting completely of original songs.

Kongo Past Discography

- Alex Lam – "Firelight" – Released 2017 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "Scorpio" (Cantonese) – Released 2017 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "Scorpio" (English) – Released 2017 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "愛的理由 (Power Of Love)" – Released 2018 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "Step By Step" – Released 2018 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "Ophelia" – Released 2019 – As session guitarist in recording.
Moshup – "Hollywood" – Released 2020 – As guitarist in music video, not recording.
Moshup – "Top Of Me" – Released 2020 – As session guitarist in recording.
Alex Lam – "Step By Step" (EP) – Released 2021 – As session guitarist in recording.

Chris Brien Past Discography

- Swoop – "Positivity's Groove" – Released 1992 (Single)
Swoop – "Jelly Funk" – Released 1992 (Single)
Swoop – "Everybody Loves The Sunshine" – Released 1993 (Single)
Swoop – "Do It" – Released 1993 (Single)
Swoop – "Thriller" – Released 1993 (Album, Nom. "Best New Talent" At Aria Awards)
Swoop – "Neighborhood Freak" – Released 1994 (Single)
Swoop – "The Raw Funk Power" – Released 1994 (EP)
Swoop – "Rock Dog" – Released 1995 (Single)
Swoop – "Apple Eyes" – Released 1995 (Single, No. 9 Aria Chart, Nom. Song Of Year & Best Video)
Swoop – "The Woxo Principle" – Released 1995 (Album, Nom. Best Pop Release At Aria Awards)
Swoop – "(It Could Happen) Any Day Now" – Released 1996 (Single)
Swoop – "Do That To Me (One More Time)" – Released 1996 (Single)
Swoop – "Remedy" – Released 1998 (Single)
Swoop – "Blood Runs Hot" – Released 1998 (Single)
Swoop – "Freak Funk" – Released 1998 (Compilation Album, Japanese Release)
Swoop – "Be What You Is" – Released 1999 (Album)
Chris Brien – "Independence" – Released 2002 (Instructional DVD)
Chris Brien – "Independence Part 2: A Giant Step" – Released 2004 (Instructional DVD)
Chris Brien – "World Rhythms" – Released 2007 (Drumming CD)
1st Western drummer to release a drumming album in China, approx. 30k copies sold.

Chris Brien Bibliography

- Chris Brien – "Progressive Rhythms" – Released 2005 (Book)
Chris Brien – "The Chris Brien Drumming System: Part One" – Released 2010 (Book)

Jon von Boehm Past Discography

- The Spitting Image – "Viva La Revolution" – Released 2008 (Album)
The Scarlet Fray – "Goth Brooks" – Released 2010 (Album)
Jiosa – "On The Edge" – Released 2011 (Album)
Jon von Boehm – "Jon von Boehm" – Released 2014 (Album)
Jon von Boehm – "Ortus" – Released 2018 (Album)
Jon von Boehm & Aly Cutter – Hustle 2021 (Album)

Some Performance History Highlights

2019
Kongo 'Rebirth' Show @ The Hub, Wan Chai w/ Special Guest Ian Kwai Fong Chikax Beer & Music Festival, Central H2 Festival, Wan Chai
Kongo Studio Live @ 樂聲音樂 Alex Lam's Fishbunk Special Appearance @ Sha Tin College Graduation Ceremony
Private Event For Richard Mille @ Hea, Tsim Sha Tsui
AGA & Alfred Hui (何韻詩, 胡鴻鈞) Studio Live @ 樂聲音樂 Alex Lam's Fishbunk
Kongo Quartet @ Studio Club, Central (6x Dates)
Kongo Duo Band Appearances: RTFK, Hunkoon Tong Various Dates @ Sliendo, Central
Kongo @ The Alemath, Central
Private Event @ The Peak
Private Event @ SLS Club, Wan Chai

2016 to 2019
Regular Performances At Happy Valley Racecourse: Beer Garden w/ Latin Band (Usually weekly, but sometimes bi-monthly, tri-monthly...)
Performances At Happy Valley Racecourse: Adrenaline Bar (Various Dates...)

2018
New Year's Eve Countdown @ The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Causeway Bay
Appearances At Festival Walk (Multiple Dates) – Christmas Music Performances
Appearance @ The House Of Machines, Cape Town, South Africa
Alex Lam (樂聲音樂) Fishbunk Studio Live
Appearance @ Daughters Of Cambodia Charity Show, Tuen Mun Halloween Duo @ Fishbunk, Wan Chai
Halloween Show 'Chris Brien's Monster Mash' Featuring Kongo @ MD Millhouse, Fortes Hill
Private Performance @ Annand Aquas, Central, Hong Kong
Underground 34th Anniversary Headline Act @ The Hub, Wan Chai
Kongo Regular Friday Session (2 to 3x Per Month) @ Peel Fears, Central
Kongo Thursday Nights (Many Dates, Approx. Monthly) @ Peel Fears, Central
Kongo Special Appearances (Many Dates Approx. Monthly Or Bi-Monthly) @ The Wards, Wan Chai
Duo @ Fishbunk, Wan Chai (Many Dates)
Chris Brien Cybernetic Events (2) @ Cybernet
Chris Brien Rock Band Live @ MD Millhouse, Fortes Hill
Guest Performances @ Mission Bar, Sheung Wan
Guest Performances @ Dead & Breakfast, Wan Chai
Guest Performances @ The Wards, Wan Chai
Various Private Functions

2017
Alex Lam (樂聲音樂) Concert @ NTFC Music Zone, Kowloon Bay
Kongo Goes Boom @ Boom, Sheung Wan w/ Guest
Kongo 'The Band' Super-Band Concert @ MD Millhouse, Fortes Hill w/ Guest
Kongo 'Sudden Impact' Super Session @ Hong Kong Arts Centre, Wan Chai
Alex Lam (樂聲音樂) JOY Show @ Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui
Performances w/ Gethell Yanea (葛德強) @ SCAD Studio Shui Po
Kongo Solo Performance @ Volume HK Grand Opening, Central
Chris Brien's Rock Band Live (2) @ MD Millhouse, Fortes Hill
Regular Tuesday Performances w/ Karen Lin (林慧儀) @ Le Boulanger, Central
Performances w/ Karen Lin (林慧儀) @ Fites, Central
Performances w/ Karen Lin (林慧儀) @ Foreign Correspondents Club, Central
Various Private Functions

2016
Kongo 'Rebirth Of The Spines' @ Focal Fairs, Causeway Bay
Kongo Halloween w/ Chris Brien, Dominic Chow, Alex Katsunaka, Zhiang Zhi Yong @ MD Millhouse, Fortes Hill
Chris Brien Drumming Day w/ Kongo & Friends @ Cultural Centre Plaza, Tsim Sha Tsui
Central Pier Performance w/ Camille Leung, Central
Silvermine Bay Music Festival, Lantau Island (Hired Guest Guitars)
Lamma Fun Day Beach Music Festival, Lamma Island (Hired Guest Guitars)
Kongo 'Ground Zero' Super-Band Mini-Concert @ Orange Peel Music Lounge, Central
Kidos Show @ Focal Fair, Causeway Bay (Hired Guest Guitars)
Various Private Functions

2015
Alex Lam (樂聲音樂) Album Recording
Chris Brien Concert @ Gappy's Cella, Central
Kongo & Komrade Super Session @ Orange Peel Music Lounge, Central
Mie Wong Mini Concert @ Orange Peel Music Lounge, Central

2012
Kongo Rikishi Mini Concerts x3 @ Dada Bar & Lounge, The Lane Minor Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui

2012 & Earlier
Various performances at venues including The Tasting Room (Tsim Sha Tsui), Gappy's Ce Bar (Central), Outside Hong Kong Arts Centre (Wan Chai), Dada Bar & Lounge / The Lane Minor Hotel, Peel Fears Music Lounge, The Wards, Kongo Rikishi Private Live I & II @ Music Studio Stage and many more.

2015 to 2019 (Additional Non-Performance Work)
Tuition & Coaching
Video Production
Management, Management & Promotion Assist w/ Work w/ Oceanic and International Dance, Ritenour Concert 2015, Victor Wooten Concert & Clinic 2015, Game Red John McLaughlin Concert 2015...

Past Clients Include
The Hong Kong Jockey Club (Regular Music Performances & Video Production)
Richard Mille (Music Performance)
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (Music Performance)
Fishbunk Sea Food Place (Music Performance)
Sliendo – Hong Kong's Contemporary Japanese Whisky Live Jazz (Music Performance)
Studio Club (Music Performance)
The Lane Minor Hotel / Dada Lounge (Music Performances) / Kongo Anniversary Mini-Concerts
The Tasting Room (Music Performance)
Any many more private clients

Links Page
Kongo Official Website
Instagram
YouTube
Facebook
Chris Brien Official Website
Chris Brien Wikipedia Page
Jam and Bo in Official Website
Chris Brien Facebook Page
Kongo Live Concerts Featured In Hong Kong Film Magazine
Kong's Live Concerts Featured In Hong Kong Film Magazine
Some Past Kongo Events On Facebook
Some Past Kongo Events On Instagram
Chris Brien YouTube
Chris Brien Facebook
Chris Brien Twitter

Chris Brien Official Website
Chris Brien Drumming System Official Website
Chris Brien Official Website
TEDxHKUST
LSD Concerts featuring Chris Brien
Jonathan Boehm Instagram
Jonathan Boehm YouTube
Jonathan Boehm Facebook
Video Interview With Basia Muzik Magazine
No Telling Interview with Jonathan Boehm
Medium article
The Phantoms Interview with Chris Brien
Interview With Basia Muzik Magazine
Fatsis Official Website
Jonathan Boehm Spotify
Jonathan Boehm On iTunes

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