

John Zorn - Six Litanies for Heliogabalus (2007)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Litany I* 7:52 2 *Litany II* 7:01 3 *Litany III* 10:33 4 *Litany IV* 8:10 5 *Litany V* 4:27 6 *Litany VI* 6:16 Alto Saxophone, Composed By, Arranged By, Conductor – John Zorn Bass – Trevor Dunn Chorus – Abby Fischer, Kirsten Sollek, Martha Cluver Drums – Joey Baron Electronics – Ikue Mori Organ – Jamie Saft Voice – Mike Patton

In 2006, John Zorn issued two recordings that were the first two volumes in the realization of a project that, as he put it in his notes to the second volume, a methodology "combining the hypnotic intensity of ritual (composition) the spontaneity of magic (improvisation) in a modern musical format (rock)." Those two efforts, *Moonchild* and *Astronome*, used the same trio: vocalist Mike Patton, bassist Trevor Dunn, and drummer Joey Baron. Zorn supervised and produced both discs; he conducted them as well. In the third edition of this project -- which is dedicated as the others were to French poet and dramatist Antonin Artaud, magician and occult philosopher Aleister Crowley, and composer Edgard Varèse -- Zorn ups the musical ante: in addition to the aforementioned musicians, he includes himself on alto saxophone, Jamie Saft on organ, and Ikue Mori on electronics. As if this weren't exotic enough, Zorn also utilizes a chorus consisting of Abby Fischer, Kirsten Sollek and Martha Cluver. Clocking in at 44-and-a-half minutes, these six pieces are the boldest, most exotic, and perhaps most extreme in the entire envelope thus far. ---Thom Jurek, AllMusic Review

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