

# CONGOTRONICS VS ROCKERS

An exceptional tour by a collaborative ensemble  
featuring **KONONO N°1**, **DEERHOOF**,  
**JUANA MOLINA**, **KASAI ALLSTARS**,  
**WILDBIRDS & PEACEDRUMS** and **SKELETONS**



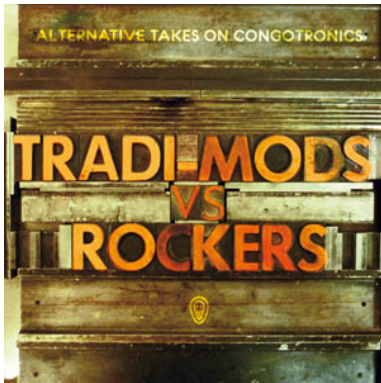
The music created by Congolese bands **Konono N°1** and **Kasai Allstars** (collectively known as '**Congotronics**') has been enthusiastically acclaimed by everyone in the indie rock scene, from artists to fans to media. Released at the end of 2010, the epic double-album entitled **Tradi-Mods vs Rockers: Alternative Takes on Congotronics** was a collective tribute by 26 rock and electronic artists, who came up with their own, creative interpretations of the Congotronics bands' music.

The logical next step in this transcontinental encounter: this spring & summer, a special collaborative ensemble consisting of ten Congolese and ten indie rock musicians will get together to create a common, entirely fresh repertoire, building bridges between their respective worlds, for what promises to be one of the most spectacular musical events of 2011.

Appearing under the name **CONGOTRONICS vs ROCKERS**, the ensemble will include **Konono N°1**, **Kasai Allstars**, mighty US band **Deerhoof**, unique Argentinian artist **Juana Molina**, explosive Swedish experimental pop duo **Wildbirds & Peacedrums**, & inventive Brooklyn band **Skeletons** (represented by their leader Matt Mehlman), 20 musicians in total, all performing together.

**Scheduled from June 26 to July 31, 2011, this special tour includes selected dates at major festivals & venues around Europe & Japan.**

**Crammed Discs**, the instigator of **CONGOTRONICS vs ROCKERS**, will be 30 in 2011. The label will celebrate its anniversary in style with this project, which is aptly emblematic of Crammed's adventures during these three decades.



## MINI-BIOGRAPHIES

The music of **Konono N°1** has elicited spectacular reactions ever since the release of the inaugural "Congotronics" album in 2004. The band was founded four decades earlier by Mawangu Mingiedi who, after moving from the Baongo region to the Congolese capital Kinshasa, proceeded to electrify his likembe (the traditional instrument sometimes called "sanza" or "thumb piano", consisting of metal rods attached to a resonator), using hand-made microphones built from magnets salvaged from old car parts. Konono N°1's sensational, relentless distortion-fuelled sound is generated by three electric likembes (bass, medium and treble), and a rhythm section which uses traditional as well as makeshift percussion made from junkyard scrap. Konono N°1 have appeared at festivals such as Sonar, Coachella and ATP, and were invited by Björk and Herbie Hancock to appear on their respective albums. The band's more recent releases are the Grammy-nominated "Live At Couleur Café" album, and their second album proper, "Assume Crash Position", which came out in May 2010 and has just topped the US world music charts for 8 consecutive weeks.

**Kasai Allstars** is a collective revolving around 25 musicians all based in Kinshasa, DR Congo, but originating from five different ethnic groups from the Kasai province, each with their own language and musical tradition, which were thought to be incompatible until these musicians decide to put their resources together and form this "supergroup". They use a spectacular mixture of traditional acoustic instruments, electric guitars, distortion-laden thumb pianos and soulful vocals, and draw their songs from festive and ritual music played in the bush before being banned by the Europeans, who considered the highly erotic dances and the pagan trance ceremonies as "satanic". Kasai Allstars' powerful, sophisticated and wild sound was praised by Western audiences and media, and turned out to be a source of inspiration for many indie and electronic bands. The band's first full-length was the awe-inspiring "In The 7th Moon, The Chief Turned Into A Swimming Fish And Ate The Head Of His Enemy By Magic" (2008), the 3rd volume in the Congotronics series.

**Deerhoof** are one of the most legendary indie rock bands from the US. Their hyper-energetic and inventive music has been described as "art punk" (and, in the recent Wire magazine feature, as "angular Beefheartian rock"). They are "16 years into a career that has inspired brainiac bands from Radiohead to Dirty Projectors" (Q Magazine), and are "still the weirdest sounding rock foursome anywhere" (Uncut). The band has a lot of experience with collaborations and special projects, they've performed at most major US festivals and have toured with Radiohead and Sonic Youth. The band comprises 4 members: amazing drummer Greg Saunier, Japanese bassist/vocalist Satomi Matsuzaki, and guitarists John Dieterich and Ed Rodriguez.

The music of **Juana Molina** has been described at various times as seductively dreamy, hallucinogenic, adventurous and beguiling. The last four of her five albums were self-produced, recorded and written in her home studio in Argentina (and came out worldwide on Domino Records). She's gradually "freed herself from the weight of convention to attain a dimension rarely visited by ordinary mortals: that of pure music", in the words of tastemaker magazine Les Inrockuptibles.

Powerful Swedish duo **Wildbirds & Peacedrums** cruises between their own brand of experimental pop/soul and improvisation. Consisting of Mariam Wallentin (vocals) & Andreas Werliin (percussion, electronics), the band has been acclaimed by the indie rock audience and press, has toured with Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, Efterklang, St Vincent and Deerhoof, and has even earned the title of Jazz Band of the Year in Sweden. In 2010, Wildbirds and Peacedrums toured Europe with a special vocal project involving a 12-piece choir.

**Skeletons**, one of the most fascinating bands from the buoyant Brooklyn scene, create intense, original and revelatory music, working a globe-spanning realm of inspirations into a singular and colourful vision of guitar-based songcraft. Pitchfork described their sound as 'an outside global-a-go-go mélange of unceasing polyrhythms, Afrobeat guitars, free jazz, and Timbaland's approach to kitchen-sink percussion', while US magazine XLR8R stated that Skeletons are 'one of the few contemporary bands who can legitimately be called original'. "People", the new Skeletons album, will be out on Crammed this spring.

This show is a live extension of  
"Tradi-Mods vs Rockers: Alternative  
Takes on Congotronics", the indie scene's  
tribute album to Congotronics

"This is what the future will sound like" (Mojo, UK)  
"A miraculous dialogue" (Les Inrockuptibles, France)  
"Wonderful" (Sunday Times, UK)  
"Stunning" (Le Vif/L'Express, BE)  
"The future of pop" (Die Zeit, DE)  
"A triumph" (the AV Club, USA)



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**MUKALO**  
PRODUCTION

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