

**BRIAN BAXTER**  
***BOOK OF DRUM***

**U.S. Release Date: April 6, 2014**

Composer and percussionist Brian Baxter is a Chicago-based composer and drummer who writes music that is vigorous and direct, strongly influenced by places and environments. Born from his personal experiences in Chicago as the place where he lives and works, Baxter's first full-length album, *Book of Drum* was released this past spring. The album is a tour de force exploration of the diverse sounds and rhythms of his life in Chicago interpreted through the wide-ranging sonorities of a single drum set using an array of sticks, mallets, and found objects. Particularly interested in capturing motion in his sound by emphasizing interlocking rhythms and transmuting textures, *Book of Drum* embodies the noisy, messy, and fast-paced life of a major city whose spirit is captivating, communal, and proud.

*Book of Drum* was commercially released on April 6, 2014. It is available for download from Bandcamp, iTunes, cdbaby, Amazon, as well as streaming from Bandcamp and Spotify. Hard copies are available from Bandcamp.

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City of Chicago  
Mayor Rahm Emanuel

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF  
**DCASE**  
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## **Album and Artist Information**

**Record Information:** Music written and performed by Brian Baxter. Artwork by Francis Zaander. Produced by Brian Baxter and Dan Smart. Recorded, mixed, and mastered by Dan Smart at ECHO/NORMAL Studio in Chicago. © 2014 by Brian Baxter, ATHIHADSO MUSIC (ASCAP), All Rights Reserved.

**Artist Recording History & Biography:** Brian Baxter has collaborated with a variety of different artists on professional recordings. His latest trio, *Monks Mound*, was recorded by Access Contemporary Music's Palomar ensemble at WFMT studios in Chicago on its "Ten x Ten" collaborative arts vinyl release (November, 2013). Gaudete Brass recorded Baxter's *A Great Commercial City* on their debut release, *Chicago Moves*, through the Chicago-based label Cedille Records (November, 2012). Grammy winning producer, Judith Sherman, produced the recording.

Since the beginning of his professional career, Baxter's music has received wide-ranging performances, establishing his reputation in Chicago's new music scene as a sought after composer and drummer. Recently, the Chicago Q Ensemble with Angela Tomasino premiered *Old World Elegy*, which was written for voice and string quartet based on the poetry of Richie Hofmann, the award-winning poet who was the recipient of a 2012 Ruth Lily Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. Presented collaboratively by Singers on New Ground and Memorious Journal, the premiere took place at the Poetry Foundation (May, 2013). In collaboration with Shara Worden (*My Brightest Diamond*), Baxter co-wrote orchestral arrangements of *My Brightest Diamond's* music for a concert featuring Worden and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras Symphony Orchestra the Jay Pritzker Pavillion in Chicago's Millennium Park (August, 2011). At South by Southwest in Austin, TX, Baxter performed with the Sissy-Eared Mollycoddles on a variety of music, including some of his own works, on Gabriel Prokofiev's NonClassical Showcase at the Velveeta Room (March, 2011).

Baxter holds degrees in music composition from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts (MM), and Illinois Wesleyan University (BM). He has been the recipient of five consecutive ASCAP PLUS Awards from 2009-2013.

**Dan Smart – Engineer & Producer:** Dan Smart is a musician, songwriter, and producer/engineer. Since 2006 he has composed, produced, engineered, and mixed pieces that have appeared on television, radio, and internet; including pieces for such companies as GAP Jeans, Bel Brands, AT&T, WBEZ, Emerson Electric, Target, Jack Daniels, and Philip Morris.

As a producer/engineer and owner/operator of his own studio (ECHO/NORMAL in Chicago, IL), Smart has worked with a number of local and national acts, including The Field Auxiliary, Mutts, Bailiff, Brighton MA, Volcanoes Make Islands, Boy King Islands, Hand Practices, Geoff Dolce Trio, Midnight on Pearl Beach, and more. As a musician, Smart has also toured nationally with such bands as Probably Vampires, The Field Auxiliary, The Sleptalkers, and Brighton MA. He studied creative writing and music composition at Illinois Wesleyan University, and currently lives and works in Chicago, IL.