

## IN PRINT



**Picture Infinity: Marshall Allen & The Sun Ra Arkestra Sibylle Zerr (In+Out)**  
by David Cristol

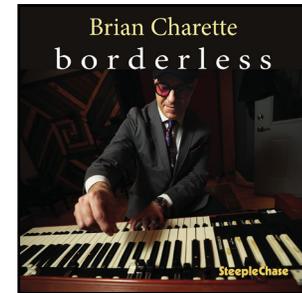
The raucous Sun Ra Arkestra didn't end when its initiator returned to Saturn in 1993, but continued under the guidance of tenor great John Gilmore for a short stint, then to the alto saxophone and electronic wind instrument (EWI) wizard Marshall Allen. After a long tenure with the Arkestra, the multi-instrumentalist took over its leadership beginning in 1995, a position Allen still holds as he nears age 102 (May 25). In this century, the German label IN+OUT released three albums by the Arkestra under Allen: *Live at the Paradox* (2009), *Babylon Live* (2015) and *Lights on a Satellite* (2024). Coincidentally, the latter title was also used the same year by Resonance for an unearthed 1978 live recording by the original Sun Ra Arkestra, a mission that started some 70 years ago.

*Picture Infinity: Marshall Allen & The Sun Ra Arkestra* is neither an Allen biography or a complete

panorama of the Arkestra. This book, first published in 2011 and now reappearing either as a stand alone artifact or as part of a bundle with the aforementioned CDs or LPs (one hand-signed by Allen), aims to document in words and photographs the 2008 tour that led to the first record issued on the label. The balance of images and text makes sense considering that the Arkestra is equal parts music and stage show with a strong visual component. The publication feels like a snapshot of a given moment in the band's odyssey, with some interesting insights such as the distinct approaches of Ra and Allen for leading the band, or the revelation that Allen has inherited a treasure trove of unrecorded Ra-penned compositions. The Arkestra is simultaneously building on its past and looking to the future, effectively making it an evolving entity as well as a time machine navigating in all directions of its history. The author includes excerpts of interviews with band members conducted at the time of writing, archival quotations of Ra and her own honest and down-to-earth observations on the proceedings.

The now-sprawling Ra literature started in grand style with John Szwed's *Space is the Place* (1997), and has continued with Arkestra trumpeter-alum Ahmed Abdullah's *A Strange Celestial Road* (2023) and now with this small, but certainly worthy addition.

For more info visit [inandout-records.com](http://inandout-records.com). Allen is at *Solar Myth* (Philadelphia, PA) Mar. 10 (with *Ghost Horizons*) and Mar. 13 (with *Dave Burrell, Bobby Zankel, Kresten Osgood*). See *100 Miles Out*.



**Borderless**  
Brian Charette (SteepleChase)  
by Pierre Giroux

Pianist-organist-keyboardist Brian Charette has always regarded the Hammond B3 organ as a full orchestra rather than just a specialty instrument, and *Borderless* stands as one of his most personal and daring statements yet. Recorded solo, mainly with new material in one or two takes without overdubs, the album honors an older jazz ethic: trust the moment, trust the instrument and let imperfections reveal the truth.

The album's program begins with "Minors Must Be Accompanied by Adults", one of nine originals. This minor-key blues makes a powerful statement, with its melodic impact and rhythmic drive, clearly influenced by legendary jazz organist Jack McDuff; Charette subtly extends the harmony just enough to keep the blues feeling slightly unsettled. "Sunrise" shifts the palette entirely, with Charette drawing on Hungarian scales and a shimmering vintage vibrato that predates Jimmy Smith's hard-swing dominance on the instrument. The result feels almost archaic in the best sense: an echo of early organists who balanced folk modality with jazz phrasing. "Blood Sun" embodies a

# A NEW RECORD COMING SOON!



**STREETDATE: 3/20**  
**NYC Album**  
**Release Concerts**

**Ornithology**  
**Brooklyn**  
3/31 7:30 p.m.

**St. Peter's Church**  
**Manhattan**  
4/26 5:00 p.m.

**An Beal Bocht Cafe**  
**Bronx**  
4/29 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

**Smalls**  
**Manhattan**  
5/5 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.

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