

Press release *For Immediate Release: January 20, 2021*

**David Krakauer & Kathleen Tagg present
Mazel Tov Cocktail Party (release date: Feb. 25, 2022)**



David Krakauer will release his new album « Mazel Tov Cocktail Party », created with producer **Kathleen Tagg**, on **February 25, 2022** on **Table Pounding Records**.

This album will be celebrated with a 10-concert European tour beginning **Tuesday March 29, 2022** in Paris, and will be preceded by a live event in New York City on **Friday March 25, 2022** (Details TBA).

We would be happy to send you a copy of the album and any other additional information (visuals, press kit) for announcements and/or interviews. **Press Inquiries: info@tablepoundingmusic.com**

Album Now Available for Pre-Order on **[Bandcamp](#)**.

Music Videos made remotely and in isolation in living rooms and basements at the height of the pandemic available for viewing **[HERE](#)**.

[Table Pounding Records](#) is thrilled to announce the release of clarinetist, composer and bandleader **[David Krakauer](#)**'s first album under his own name in eight years: **[Mazel Tov Cocktail Party](#)**. Always searching to expand his aesthetic boundaries and find new sounds,

Krakauer has teamed up with producer Kathleen Tagg to create a cathartic expression of joy and affirmation. In response to rising bigotry and intolerance world-wide, Krakauer and Tagg have assembled a crew of artists from a wide variety of genres and cultural backgrounds to convey a counter-message of positivity that celebrates our shared humanity. The album will be released on Feb 25th, 2022 on streaming platforms as well as in CD and vinyl formats.

The album and touring project *Mazel Tov Cocktail Party* were conceived and created by Krakauer and producer **Kathleen Tagg** as a “good vibes explosion” in response to the current climate of incredible polarization and negativity that pervades our daily lives.

Along with Krakauer and Tagg, the album showcases a brand new line-up consisting of an incredibly high-octane group of world class musicians: Clarinet wizard **Krakauer** is the Godfather to **Tagg**’s quirky keys and production, Iranian dynamo and multi-talent **Martin Shamanpoor**’s drumming, jazz guru **Jerome Harris**’ virtuosic bass, sultry soul singer/rapper **Sarah MK**’s voice and words & oud/guitar-meister **Yoshie Fruchter**’s lines.

Together this group brings their enormous musical and cultural diversity to the project, and collaborate to create both original material as well as unique re-imaginings of material from around the world. The album takes traditional, old dance forms and completely recasts them to bring an overt message of tolerance and inclusion. Polka, Square Dance and the Hora never sounded this way before, with electro beats, acoustic middle Eastern hand drums, deep grooves and lyrics that call for space for all. Krakauer’s wailing clarinet cries out for us to join together, celebrate and feel the power in our aliveness.

A Square Dance? Polka? Hornpipe, Hora and Calypso? Urban beats mixing with acoustic instruments and thought provoking rap? **What is this music?** In the heavily polarized months of 2020, Krakauer and Tagg began deeply reflecting on what we all share as humans as a counter to the constant barrage of stories of how different we are. It disturbed them profoundly that the conversation is so divided, blind bigotry is rampant and tensions between different groups of people are at an all-time high: Urban vs rural. Red vs blue. Conservative vs liberal etc. What’s the common place where we have the potential to come together as humans and don’t need to know the beliefs of the person next to us to have a good time? It’s with music and dance.

So Krakauer and Tagg went to the old dance forms. The ones designed for communities to come together and move. Dances that are instantly recognizable. And from there they dove into the realities of our America with all its amazing diversity and added those sounds in: eg. a Square Dance with words partly in Quebecois French, drumming on an Iranian daf and a beat by Moroccan-born, NYC-based beat maker. Music with the form and pulse of a traditional Square Dance but the beat of a Brooklyn nightclub. A musical meeting place where each member showed up as they were with their entire history and skill sets, to create a new sound where the individual strands create the whole.

It’s a Mazel Tov Cocktail Party and everyone’s invited!! In these uncertain times, it’s a chance for performers and audience alike to come together, celebrate all that we have in common and throw a metaphorical “Mazel Tov Cocktail” up in the air to light up the world!

For the past 25 years, David Krakauer has spearheaded projects that bring together multicultural strands in unexpected ways. He is considered one of the leading forces in terms of redefining and re-imagining the music of his Eastern European Jewish cultural heritage. In 2008 he founded **Table Pounding Records** as a hub for genre-crossing projects. Then in 2015 Kathleen Tagg joined Krakauer to create the production and creation wing of Table Pounding Records: Table Pounding Music.

Mazel Tov Cocktail Party features:

David Krakauer, Clarinet and Vocals

Kathleen Tagg, Keyboards, Cello, Accordion, Electronics/Samples

Sarah MK, MC, Vocals and Rap Vox

Martin Shamoopour, Daf (Iranian Frame drum), jaw harp and mouth percussion

Yoshie Fruchter, Electric Guitar, Oud and Mandolin

Jerome Harris, Bass and Vocals

Also featured are electronic tracks from acclaimed beat makers **Bergsonist** (Morocco/NYC), **Socalled** (Montreal Canada), **Jeremy Flower** aka Keepalive (Boston) and **Kathleen Tagg** (South Africa/NYC).

Artist Statement & Back Story from David Krakauer and producer Kathleen

Tagg:

Looking at the crushing negativity and alarming rise in hatred and intolerance in the world today, we felt compelled at this point to put forward a musical celebration of our shared humanity as a counter-force to all the madness. This project riffs off a slip of the tongue by a conservative pundit who called Molotov Cocktails “Mazel Tov” Cocktails. We were tickled by the imagery of a “Mazel Tov Cocktail” lighting up the world with hope and joy- instead of being a weapon of destruction. This is summed up by the lyrics of the title track of the album: “Get unplugged, Stop being Afraid. Look Your neighbor in the eye, and wish ‘em well. And raise a glass of a sizzling brew. To light up the world and make things new”

We imagined that a musical project could be a fun party that would have the potential to be used as a catalyst to encourage and support people to do good things in the world. We wanted to take traditional, old dance forms and completely recast them to bring an overt message of tolerance and celebration of our shared humanity. And we wanted to make new tunes that got people up and dancing. It’s been a really hard two years, and we need to move together. It’s a party, and you’re all invited!!

David Krakauer and Kathleen Tagg, New York City December 2021

UPCOMING TOUR DATES:

25 March 2022 : **New York City** - Details TBA

31 March 2022 : **Le Rocher de Palmer** - Cenon

1 April 2022 : **Le VIP** - Saint-Nazaire

2 April 2022 : **La 3'E de l' Ernée** - Ernée

3 April 2022 : **Théâtre Paul Eluard** - Bezons

5 April 2022 : **Théâtre Novarina** - Thonon les Bains

- 7 April 2022 : **Maison de la Culture** - Amiens
- 8 April 2022 : **La Halle** - Dieulefit
- 9 April 2022 : **Le Quai des Rêves** - Lamballe