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Jello Biafra becomes a throbblehead and joins the Occupy **Musicians list** Phyllis Pollack, Rock Music Examiner Add a comment



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By Phyllis Pollack



Bruce Springsteen: Tom Joad's ghost is still here

Credits:

Springsteen looms large among artists that have inspired listeners with his prolific protest lyrics



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Video: Click to hear Scott Sechman sing "I Can't Find My Dreams.

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As would be expected, former Dead Kennedys lead singer and longtime political activist Jello Biafra was one of the first recording artists to sign on to the newly formed Occupy Musicians, the collective supporting Occupy Wall Street and the worldwide movement against inequality. Additionally, spreading the word, Biafra is now available as a bobblehead, donning the Alternative Tentacles logo. The bobblehead gives a rant in Biafra's voice, supporting the Occupy Wall Street movement, and noting other topics. The throbblehead is available for purchase through the Aggronautix website.

In other Occupy Musicians news, according to newsletter Rock and Rap Confidential, edited by Grammy-winning rock critic Dave Marsh, Lou Reed and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine have also signed onto the Occupy Musicians site as supporters. Among the website's goals, the musical coaltion will co-ordinate performances at Occupy sites. CONTINUE READING BELOW THIS ADVERTISEMENT.



Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, David Crosby and Graham Nash are among artists that have already performed live in support of the Occupy protesters.

Additional artists who have given their name to Occupy Musicians include Gang of Four's Dave Allen, Ian MacKaye of Jackson Browne

Fugazi and Guy Picciotto. Talib Kweli, British saxophonist Evan Parker and the Flaming Lips' Kliph Scurlock have also enlisted their support. The legendary Roy Harper, Bill Frisell, John Zorn, Laurie Anderson, Marc Ribot, Saul Williams, Pauline Oliveros and Cibo Matto's Yuka Honda have also signed onto the cause. More names are being added, but updates are coming slowly, reportedly because the organization is run by volunteers.

A work entitiled "Occupy This Album" is in the works for digital release, slated as a compilation of tracks from various artists including Jackson Browne, Toots and the Maytals, Yo La Tengo, Third Eye Blind and Lucinda Williams, Ladytron and other musicians.

Tom Cartwright, a longtime music industry veteran, says of Occupy Wall Street, "This movement will be a flashpoint inspiring great musical works, not only from well-known artists, but it will also inspire new artists to write socially conscious songs about the times in which live. The continued disillusionment of the American dream and the runaway corporate greed that permeates our society will give rise to a whole new wave of new singer/songwriters, just like in The Sixties."

Cartwright points to the example of Scott Sechman, a Los Angles based singer/songwriter, who recently penned the song "I Can't Find My Dreams." Cartwright says, "The song paints the same mood as the songs heard on Bruce Springsteen's "The Ghost of Tom Joad," insprired by John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath.'

The lyrics from the title track of Springsteen's album includes, "Now Tom said, 'Mom, wherever there's a cop beatin' a guy, wherever a hungry newborn baby cries, where there's a fight against the blood and hatred in the air, look for me Mom, I'll be there. Wherever there's somebody fightin' for a place to stand, or a decent job or a helpin' hand, wherever somebody's strugglin' to be free, look in their eyes, Mom, you'll see me."

Sechman's video for "I Can't Find My Dreams" can be seen by clicking the video link on the left side of this page.

The complete list of the artists supporting Occupy Musicians can be found here.



By Phyllis Pollack Rock Music Examiner

Phyllis Pollack is a longtime music journalist and music publicist. Her articles have appeared in many publications, including The Village Voice,...

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