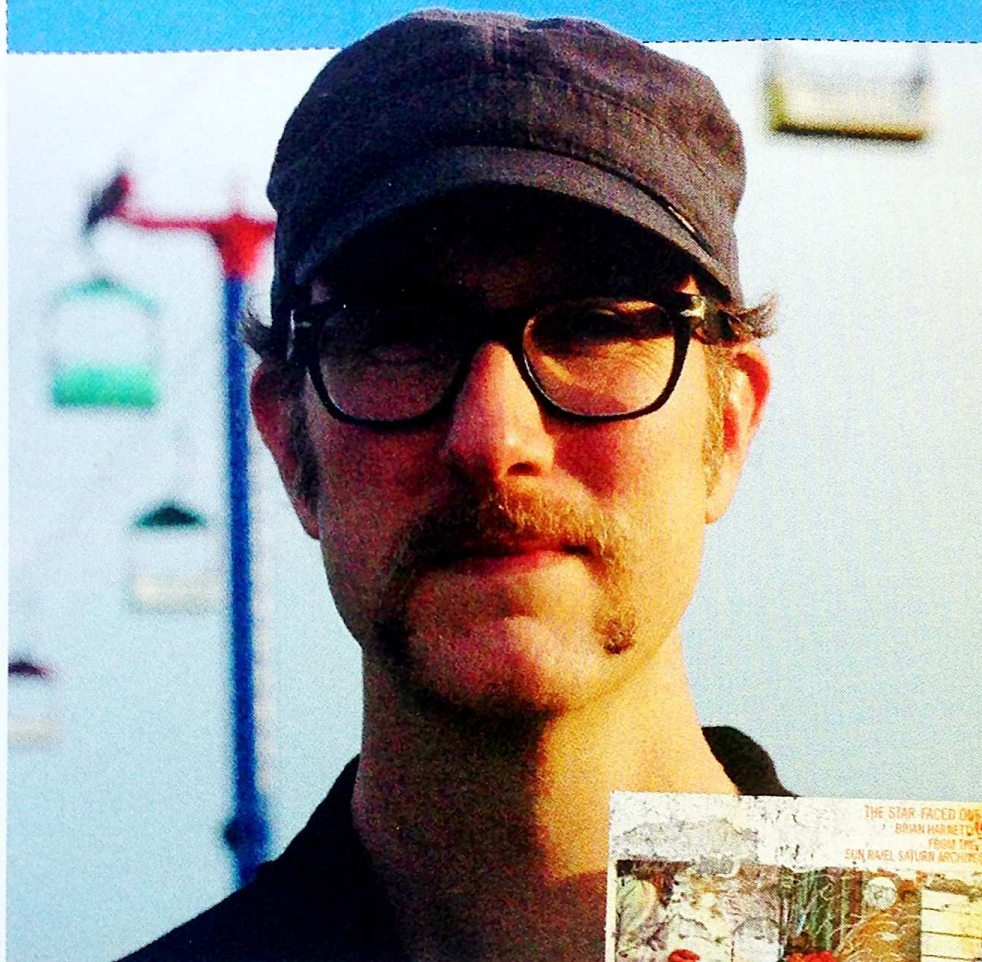


UNDERGROUND

BY ANDREW MALE



Brian Harnetty



The Star-Faced One

ATAVISTIC. [CD/DL](#)



Will Oldham-endorsed collagist chops up Sun Ra.

BRIAN HARNETTY knows his way round sound libraries. Over the past seven years the Columbus, Ohio musician has mined rich seams from the archives at Berea College, Kentucky, producing works as spooked, spellbinding and particular as 2009's Will Oldham collaboration, *Silent City*. For *The Star-Faced One*, Harnetty was given access to Chicago Experimental Sound Studio's Sun Ra/El Saturn tapes, magnetic miles of rehearsals, concerts, lectures and nut-job field recordings from the Alabama-born jazzstronaut's infinite universe. Rather than emulate Ra's interplanetary chant-bop stylings, Harnetty and band weave melancholy threads of music-box celesta, piano, flute, cello and clarinet through warped reels of Ra philosophy and instruction. The end result is a peculiarly intimate and beautiful, a drifting dialogue between past and present in the smoke-filled rec room of the orbiting Arkestra space station.