

# WARLOCK ASYLUM

[www.warlockasylum.com](http://www.warlockasylum.com)  
[warlockasylum@gmail.com](mailto:warlockasylum@gmail.com)  
718-594-0859

**Warlock Asylum**, a meeting of minds from Uptown, Manhattan and Greenpoint, Brooklyn, is the collaboration between poet / sound designer **Messiah-el Bey** and multi-instrumentalist / engineer **Steve Berson**. Together they have created a trip-hop soundscape over which Messiah-el drops spoken word poetry and vocalized hooks.

Warlock Asylum's sound can be traced to numerous influences, ranging from artists as diverse as Public Enemy, RZA, Fela Kuti, Portishead, Common, Tricky, Dead Can Dance, Babatunde Olatunji, The Last Poets, Squarepusher, The Beatles, and Gil Scot Heron. Drawing from these inspirations they have created a unique hard beat based ambient vortex that draws strength from both the ancient and the future.

Warlock Asylum's first album, "**Kiss of The Immortal**," was released by Total Sonic Media in 2009. More the aural equivalent of a graphic novel than a concept album, "Kiss of The Immortal" in words and music loosely tells the first part of the tale of Messiah-el and Lilith, soul mates in Eternity who are separated from each other by their birth into the mortal world. As Messiah-el searches to be reunited with his love, the album details his struggles navigating through a Gotham-esque labyrinth of trials and temptations.

After a short hiatus in 2010 to allow Messiah-el Bey to focus on writing a number of books and papers on magic and mysticism, 2011 has seen renewed musical activities for Warlock Asylum. They premiered its live act (augmented by electronic violinist Megan Berson and drummer Ryan Diehl) in June and July of 2011 to appreciative crowds at Brooklyn's Trash Bar and Manhattan's Alphabet Lounge. Warlock Asylum has also returned to the studio and is working on completing several new tracks, including the single "There In America," for release later this year. They are currently seeking more performance opportunities and look forward to touring in the near future.



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**Messiah-el Bey** is a veteran poet and performer, and has made numerous appearances at the Nuyorican Poets Café, Bowery Poetry Club, City College, ABC No Rio and other venues, and has shared the stage with Dead Prez and Common among many others. In 2000 he produced “Ghetto Wars, part 1: The Glass Onion” a compilation of New York underground poets. In 2003 with El Fuma, a collaboration with poet Qiniso Mdhladha (aka “Charleston Chu”) he released “Naked Bones,” an album of political and social satire created with spoken words and twisted beats. In 2010 Messiah-el authored and published a number of books and papers on mysticism, magic and the necronomicon tradition including the “The Atlantean Necronomicon.”

**Steve Berson** is a multi-instrumentalist (performing on electric bass, cello, guitar, keyboards, dilruba, bouzouki, djimbe, dumbec, bamboo recorders, and whatever else he get his hands on) and an audio engineer who works out of his own mastering studio, Total Sonic Media. From 1999-2009 he performed as cellist with alternative string quartet Invert (with whom he has toured the USA and released three CD's), and in 2006-2007 he toured the West Coast and Europe as cellist with Rebecca Moore. He currently performs as cellist with both Red Bedlam and the 20-piece This Ambitious Orchestra, with whom he has performed regularly in venues such as Le Poisson Rouge, Sullivan Hall, Mercury Lounge, House of Yes and Highline Ballroom.

