

minority
records

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Artist: Taupe
Title: waxing | waning

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- 01 Lemonade Tycoon
- 02 Anti-Bird-Spike-Bird-Nest
- 03 Interlude (Stride)
- 04 allcapsallbold
- 05 Pet Boss
- 06 waxing | waning
- 07 Turn Push Kick



Taupe's latest album release, *waxing | waning* delivers jazz experimentalism, 'skronk', avant-rock, and electronics, by the Glasgow-based trio, due out via Minority Records

Across its seven tracks, *waxing | waning* captures Taupe's approach – bold and boundary-pushing – shaped by a fresh shift in the band's dynamic and compositional approach

Taupe's *waxing | waning*, co-composed and realised by its players in a studio that was once an undertaker's premises in Glasgow, is an absolutely affirmative album, an act of cultural defiance in desperate times.

Comprising Mike Parr-Burman (guitar, bass guitar, electronics), Jamie Stockbridge (alto and baritone saxophones) and Alex Palmer (drum kit, percussion), Taupe work up a storm of skronk, free jazz and harmolodic frenzy whose closest relations include Zu, Melt Banana and John Zorn. However, *waxing | waning* is from its opening, stuttering blasts, an exercise in seeking out and claiming new territory, finding unique and novel permutations in which jazz, rock, electronics interbreed at breakneck pace. Here is a group determined to say and do things they don't get to say and do elsewhere in their musical lives.

'Lemonade Tycoon' hits the ground skronking. It's cubistic jazz, cumulative in its impact, avoiding the white

lines of the conventional freeway, bridling, bustling, coming at you from all angles – a three way conversation of astonishing rapidity, fast track, telepathic communication – everyone from James Chance to Albert Ayler coming at you at once, before morphing in to a spidery scrawl of electronics and furious percussion. 'Anti-Bird-Spike-Bird-Nest's title somehow sums up the sort of mental images evoked by the music – its sheer creative disobedience, as if being chased in vain, like a delivery rider evading capture by ICE agents – shapeshifting, assuming different shades, sprouting metal quills and, in its midsection, seeming almost to swallow itself alive, before regurgitating itself in a sublime mess.

'Interlude (Stride)' is not exactly ambient, more a horizontal enmeshment of percussion, drones, reverberant noise, electronics, a sonic mulch. 'allcapsallbold' reminds of early Aksak Maboul, in its playfulness, a haywire series of short phrases, subject to mechanical interference, a complex weave of irregular rhythms, increasingly eloquent sax phraseology and caustic guitars, which land heavier and heavier. 'Pet Boss' is the new jazz equivalent of a highly evolved, mature conversation among brilliant equals, sharp, empathetic, complementary, rising to a collective, joyful noise.

On the title track, electronics descend like a shower of bright particles, intensifying in their luminosity, whitening the skies, as sax and drums kick up a tempestuous, spontaneously sculpted noise that summons the ghosts of the great free jazz players, before a dark calm descends slowly. Finally, 'Turn Push Kick', a burgeoning chatterstorm of electronics, before the group kicks in, at angles to one another, led by abrasive guitars, reminiscent of Sunn O))) in their ritualistic concussion, riffing, digging deep amid squealing sax and piledriving percussion.

The creative endeavour of performing alongside composing shaped *waxing | waning*, inspiring Taupe to push textures, improvisation, and musical energy further than ever, as they explain:

"The bulk of the album material was collaboratively conceived and developed between 2023 and 2024 through a series of once-a-month writing sessions in either Manchester or Glasgow.

Nearly all of our recorded music comes alive first on the road. Touring the music first — where audiences and circumstances change your mindset so much, where we learn how the pieces can stretch, how far we can push ideas, how we might move away from sections, and what sort of energy you can find yourself stuck in during an improvised section — really helps us feel able to fully express ourselves in the studio, which can sometimes be a really strange environment to make interactive and spontaneous music.

Introducing Alex on drums shifted the writing dynamic in a fresh way. Sonically, we felt a need to be bolder with textures and improvisations than on previous recordings. Noisy bits are noisier; heavy bits are heavier; and sparse sections are braver in being allowed to sit for longer. Production was more considered on this one, with an importance placed on capturing the sonic detail of music that is both precise and spontaneously interactive."

waxing | waning doesn't offer balm in its beauty (always beautiful even if not always "pretty"). It acts as a model of resistance not just to the norm but to what has become normalised in today's world. As the group themselves put it, "rather than provide an easy antidote or pleasant distraction, the sounds presented in this collection of music embody a visceral reaction, a scream into the expanse, a rejection of convention and numb conformity."

In support of the album, Taupe will be touring *waxing | waning* in 2026, with performances on the following dates:

March 7th – Newcastle, Star and Shadow Cinema

March 27th – Glasgow, Hug & Pint

March 28th – Edinburgh, Leith Cricket Club

April 8th – Eindhoven, POM

April 9th – Utrecht, Studio Patrick

April 10th – Amsterdam, OCCII

April 11th – Jena

April 12th – Würzburg
April 18th – Tilburg, Offroad Festival

<https://taupetaupetaupe.com/press/#live>

Credits

Mike Parr-Burman – guitar, bass guitar, electronics
Jamie Stockbridge – alto and baritone saxophones
Alex Palmer – drum kit, percussion

Produced by Taupe & Luigi Pasquini
Executive producer: Daniel Dudarec

Recorded and mixed by Luigi Pasquini at Dystopia Studios, Glasgow, Scotland
Mastered by Andreas Lubich at Loop-O Mastering, Berlin, Germany

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Biography

Taupe

Taupe are a Glasgow-based trio whose free(math)avant(skronk) concoctions fuse sour sonics, effervescent improvisation and sludgy, doom-laden riffage into a sound both unruly and sharply honed. Often seeming to operate by a kind of spooky telekinesis, they pivot from turbulent, unwieldy chaos into taut, metronomic precision, cultivating an approach that feels both volatile and vividly alive. Steeped in a DIY ethos, Taupe balance wonky charm with exacting focus, bridging the no-wave disorder of DNA or James Chance with the squeaky-clean intricacy of groups like goat (jp) and Horse Lords, all while maintaining an anarchic spirit that takes any pretensions out to the woodshed.

Formed in 2012 when Mike Parr-Burman, Jamie Stockbridge and original drummer Adam Stapleford met while studying Music in Newcastle, Taupe began as a space for open exploration and experimentation. Their releases include *Fill Up Your Lungs and Bellow* (2017), the EP *Get The Keys* (2019), and *Not Blue Light* (2020)

Taupe's has earned support from BBC 6 Music's Freak Zone and BBC Radio 3's Late Junction and Freeness, alongside appearances at festivals across the UK and Europe, including REWIRE in The Hague, and support slots with acts such as Deerhoof, Richard Dawson & Circle, and Melt-Banana. They have toured extensively throughout the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Czechia, Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, and were part of the musical cast for Adjunct Ensemble's 2023 release *Sovereign Bodies / Ritual Taxonomy* (The Guardian's Contemporary Album of the Month).

Drummer Alex Palmer joined ahead of Taupe's performance at SHARPE Festival 2023 in Bratislava, ushering in the development period that shaped *waxing | waning* and culminating in renewed live momentum with a UK/EU tour in autumn 2024 and the debut of new material at REWIRE 2025. Forever fizzing with ideas, Taupe prize surprise above all else.

Jamie Stockbridge

Jamie Stockbridge is a performer, composer, arranger and improviser. Primarily as a Saxophonist, Jamie's performing career has taken him across the UK and Europe both as co-leader of freewheeling non-jazz vagabonds Taupe and band leader of Manchester's 12-piece ensemble Agbeko.

Jamie's compositions manifest themselves primarily through Agbeko and Taupe. His work has been featured on BBC Radio 3 (Late Junction, Freeness), BBC Radio 6 (Stuart Maconie's Freak Zone, Introducing Mixtape) Worldwide FM and on international radio as far reaching as Australia, Nigeria, Italy, Czechia, Ghana and Japan.

Alex Palmer

Alex Palmer is a touring and recording band drummer, session player, teacher and composer. Earned through several years of performing and organising gigs on the Glasgow scene he has garnered a reputation as a uniquely emotive and versatile player associated with an eclectic array of projects. Largely self taught, his style has developed organically influenced by his many collaborators.

So far, his career has seen him tour the UK with Taupe, Nimbus Sextet and Azamiah, tour Italy and Germany extensively with projects Smitten and Logans Close and appear at festivals and venues such as Rewire, Brick Lane Jazz, Kelburn Garden Party, Sharpe Festival, New Morning (Paris), JAZZMI (Milan) and The Great Escape. Alex has also been a key part of 3 successful Creative Scotland funded projects to develop residencies and record albums with Blue Giant Orkestar, Azamiah and Anoraq.

Mike Parr Burman

Mike Parr Burman is a guitarist, augmenting his practice with electronics, computer programming and unconventional techniques. He is a founding member of avant-skronk trio Taupe and an active improviser and collaborator in the Glasgow experimental music scene, with projects including free quartet Dome Riders (with Ailbhe Nic Oireachtaigh, Fritz Welch, and Armin Sturm), Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra, and his duo with improvising computer/live-sampler LEAPLEAPLEAP.

Reflecting his interdisciplinary interests, in 2023 he composed and improvised the music for *The Wanderers*, a Hidden Door Festival commission exploring music and dance interaction, led by choreographer Tess Letham. He has taken part in international residencies with the Australian Art Orchestra, and the Instant Composers Pool in the Netherlands. Mike's duo with violinist Elena Inei saw the release of *Annette Street* on Scatter Archives in July 2025.

<https://empeeby.com>

"Music to punch things to." – The Wire

"Very much egoless [...] it's exhilarating, bursting with rebellious energy." – RTÉ Lyric FM

"Taupe revel in formal deconstruction and textural mutation ... there's a sense of punky mischief here that recalls Naked City or Melt Banana." – The List

"There is no exquisite beauty... without some strangeness in the proportion' says Poe, and that's true of what Taupe do. These three musicians are in total harmony with each other, however dissonant." – Bido Lito

"A fierce trio balancing blast and groove with clear punctuation." – The New York City Jazz Record

"(Taupe) harness a telekinetic connection which allows them to flow between perfect sync and wild improvisation, just when you least expect it. Unreal." – Strange Behaviours

"Like a pigeon stuck in a post-box." – NARC Magazine

Minority Records

Minority Records, a Prague-based record label focusing on contemporary electronic music overlaps into modern classical music and avant-garde jazz, curated by Daniel Dudarec since 1996. Currently represented artists include Taupe, Floex, Sylvain Chauveau, Hidden Orchestra, Manon Meurt, DVA and Bratři Orffové.

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