

MOONDOG, THE VIKING OF 6th AVENUE

The Authorized Biography by Robert Scotto
Preface by Philip Glass

This compelling first biography includes a CD of Moondog compositions with never-before-released performances from Steve Reich, Moondog, Jon Gibson, Philip Glass and Paul Jordan.

“Moondog is one of America’s great originals. He is an awesome figure whose horizons are vast.”
—Alan Rich, *New York Magazine*

Here is one of the most improbable lives of the Twentieth Century: a blind and homeless man who became the most famous eccentric in New York and who, with enormous diligence, rose to prominence as an internationally respected composer, performer, and conductor.

Born Louis Thomas Hardin in 1916, Moondog first made an impression in the late 1940s when his music was played by the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall. His unique, melodic compositions were released on the Prestige jazz label. In the late 1960s the Viking-garbed Moondog became a pop music sensation on Columbia Records. The last decades of his life saw his evolution as a master composer for European orchestras.

Moondog’s compositional style influenced his former roommate, Philip Glass, who provides a preface to this book. Moondog’s work transcends labels and redefines the distinction between popular and high culture.

- A CD compilation is bound into the book, with 28 tracks spanning Moondog’s 50-year-career, including 13 previously unreleased performances with Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Jon Gibson, Stefan Lakatos, and Paul Jordan
- “Moondog Rising” Festival exploring the works of Louis Hardin is scheduled in New York on November 2-3, presented by Eupraxia and The Wordless Music series, featuring performances by Stefan Lakatos and many others.

About the author: Robert Scotto is a professor of literature at Baruch College, CUNY. Among his publications are a critical edition of *Catch-22* and several monographs and articles on 19th and 20th century fiction.

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By Robert Scotto

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