

A CONVERSATION WITH RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA

By Andrea Cuevas

AC: What are some things you are enjoying (or learning to cope with) during quarantine?

RM: 1. Cooking.

2. Playing memory card games with my daughter.

3. Playing *Super Mario Odyssey* with my son.

4. Taking the kids out to ride their bikes in empty parking lots. We've amassed a nice variety of lots to accommodate any and all tastes and moods.

5. Binge watching TV shows. Lots of sci-fi. I just finished *Upload* on Amazon and *Devs* on Hulu. I am currently watching *Tales from the Loop* and season 2 of *Counterpart* on Amazon. I really liked *Better Than Us* and *Leila* on Netflix. Non sci-fi, I loved *Sherman's Showcase* on IFC and *White Famous* on Showtime.

6. Purging, cleaning, and getting organized has been very cathartic. I did my home office, the storage room, and the kids' closets. A lot still left, but I'm definitely up for it.

7. On a sort of related note, I have become obsessed with tools and kitchen gadgets and am happy to read about them in every spare minute.

8. I set up my turntable and am having fun digging through my vinyl that has been collecting dust for maybe 20 years.

9. I've been reading (you guessed it) sci-fi. Tade Thompson's *Wormwood Trilogy* and Liu Cixin's *Remembrance of Earth's Past* trilogy are both amazing.

10. I signed up for an online Ukulele class but did not make any of the sessions probably due to all of the above. It's the thought that counts, right?

AC: Have you discovered anything new?

RM: I have been cooking a lot and focusing on dishes that I have never made before and techniques of which I have never tried. I'm mainly dealing with the NYT Cooking website. Tejal Rao, Melissa Clark, and Julia Moskin are amazing. Perfecting pizza dough and making kimchi are next on my list.

AC: What's the first thing you want to do once we are free to gather?

RM: I very much want to see my parents who have been quarantined in a retirement community outside of Boston. This has been very difficult for them. My Mom turned 80 in April and no one was able to celebrate with her. I also really want to play a gig with my band for lots of people for free and then hug every audience member after the show.



Hero Trio, Rudresh Mahanthappa's 16th album, will be released June 19, 2020. [Listen to a preview now.](#)



Samdhi Live at the Istanbul Jazz Festival

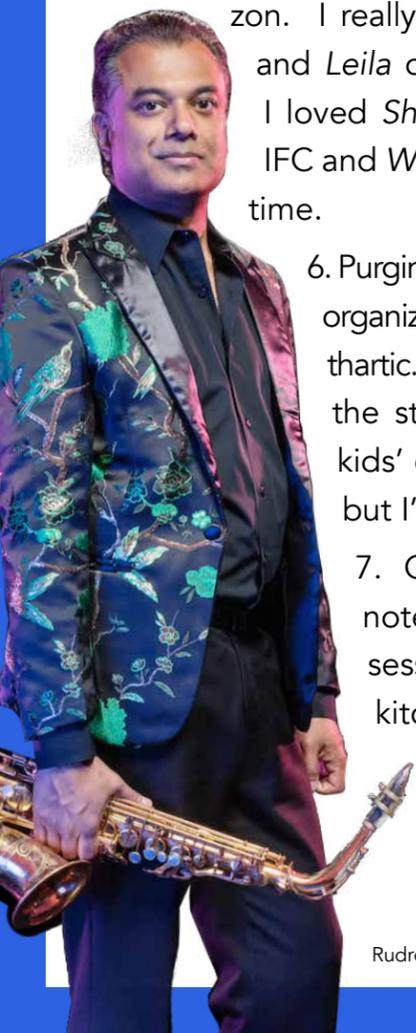


Rudresh Mahanthappa and Archie Shepp at the NEA Jazz Masters Ceremony, April 2016.

RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA

Hailed by *Pitchfork* as "jaw-dropping... one of the finest saxophonists going," alto saxophonist, composer, and educator Rudresh Mahanthappa is widely known as one of the premier voices in jazz of the 21st century. Rudresh has been named alto saxophonist of the year for seven of eight years running in *Downbeat Magazine's* International Critics' Polls (2011-2013, 2015-2018), and for five consecutive years by the Jazz Journalists' Association (2009-2013) and again in 2016. He won alto saxophonist of the year in the 2015-2017 *JazzTimes Magazine* Critics' Polls and was named the *Village Voice's* "Best Jazz Artist" in 2015. He has also received the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, among other honors, and is currently the Anthony H. P. Lee '79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University. He has over a dozen albums to his credit, including his latest album, *Hero Trio*, which pays tribute to his greatest influences. Presented with characteristically original arrangements in trio format, Rudresh has enlisted the talents of long-time associates François Moutin on bass and Rudy Royston on drum. *Hero Trio* will be released on Friday, June 19.

www.rudreshm.com



Rudresh Mahanthappa