

PRESS REVIEWS

Time Out New York: Steve Smith

Break of Reality puts the *classical* in *classic rock*, with is heavy, exotic original compositions and instrumental arrangements of hard-rock standards. If you're one of the many commuters who's seen this group in the Times Square subway station, you already know its secret weapon: It plays with genuine technique and solid intonation, but rocks out like it means it.

Huffington Post: Katherine Brooks

Game of Thrones cover by Break of Reality is the best rendition of the theme song you will ever hear. This electrifying rendition comes to us courtesy of Break of Reality, an instrumental rock band that blows any other version of the GoT tune clear out of the water.

Yahoo! Music: Wendy Geller

What do you get when you combine three classically trained cellists with a percussionist and a totally rocking attitude? Something different, that's for sure! The band Break of Reality is just that, featuring cellos played in a manner you're probably not used to hearing.

Strings Magazine: Pat Moran

"Ten...[ranges] from the chugging, prog-rock-inflected 'Helix' to the widescreen, aggressive 'Nine Deep' to the softer, pizzicato 'Drift Apart'."

Sacramento Bee: Edward Ortiz

The cello rock band Break of Reality has serious street cred in two musical arenas -- speed metal and classical music. In a blistering one-hour set, this four-member ensemble proved that there's more to the cello than meets the eye. They wasted little time diving in a take-no-prisoner approach to cello playing.

Chicago Sun-Times: Mary Houlihan

"They use the term 'cello rock' [to describe their music] but it's really much more and defies a simple tag...the band's music pops up on all sorts of [Pandora] stations from Radiohead to Yo-Yo Ma to German film composer Hans Zimmer."

San Jose Mercury News: Paul Freeman

"Blending classical music and rock can sometimes be little more than a gimmick or novelty. In the cast of Break of Reality, however, the combination soars, creating dramatic, cinematic, powerful, incredibly compelling musical journeys. Both compositions and performances are remarkable...The group establishes an exciting new musical reality, which should have wide crossover appeal."

New York Press: David Callicott

The Sound Between is the strongest and most original recent addition to my music library, where it has been in heavy rotation since I got it...Songs go from 0 to 60 in a split second, turning on a dime to take you from a quiet chamber recital to a thundering arena rock concert: Fans of both Nine Inch Nails and Kronos Quartet will be pleased.

Rochester City News: Frank DeBlase

Break Of Reality is gonna win a Grammy someday...this band has something everyone needs: excitement, originality, and an undeniable intensity that louder, heavier bands only dream of. And it has bridged the classical/rock gap while other bands have fallen short, or horsed it into the boat with way too much bombastic pomp.

Wildys World: Wildy Haskell

Break of Reality reaches for new heights on Ten, going all original with a stylistic approach that blends the best elements of classical, rock and pop music styles. The compositions on Ten are highly original and full of life, and Break of Reality use killer phrasing and a nearly flawless sense of timing and presence to build a collection of songs that will live in your mind long after the tunes have faded from your ears.

NDCF Newsletter: Corbin Keep

Their tunes are well written, consistently interesting, and achieve a near perfect balance between classical string sounds and distortion-box-colored thrashy metal.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Piet Levy

"the decade-old New York quartet Break of Reality sees the rock potential of the cello. The band has three of them, plus a cymbal-crashing percussionist, to create an interchangeably cinematic and edgy sound."

M Music and Musicians Magazine

"an all-original collection of battle-scene epics ('Helix,' 'Nine Deep') and contemplative mood pieces...this'll flip your powdered wig".

MusicNewsNashville.com: Robert Kinsler

"You might like if you enjoy: Moby, Kronos Quartet...Blending rock and classical with an authenticity rarely reached, cello-anchored quartet Break of Reality is back with a new collection titled 'Ten'... that aptly includes 10 instrumental compositions co-written by Patrick Laird (cello) and Ivan Trevino (drums, percussion)."

OregonMusicNews.com: Matthew Bernstein

"a perfect Portland kind of band that's not from Portland. They are low-key, play rock on their cellos, don't have corporate representation, give back to the community, and are as nice as can be. Lucky for us they are coming to Portland to share their view of the world through soundscapes that will amaze you."

New York Music Daily Blog: delarue

"Break of Reality occupy a kinetic, often cinematically original space in the center of the postrock spectrum...their songwriting is closer to indie classical or the mathrock side of Radiohead than, say, the lustrously moody chamber pop of Serena Jost or the gothic menace of Rasputina. Saturday night the four-piece band treated a sold-out crowd at Subculture to an eclectic release show for their latest album, Ten, highlighting every facet of their shapeshifting compositions, from their chamber music roots to their current adventures at the fringes of indie rock."

Cornell University: Assistant Program Director

I have been involved in programming for several years and in that time have hosted a variety of musical performers. I must tell you that the energy, enthusiasm and appreciation for Break of Reality's music that was shown by the students here at Cornell was something that, despite some of our best efforts, has yet to be recreated.

MUSIC EDUCATOR QUOTES

[WHAT MUSIC TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR WORKSHOPS]

"The interaction Break of Reality had with my high school students, gave my students insight into a world of music that inspired them to look beyond the normal activities of playing music. When we came together at the evening concert we saw a highly charged performance that transcended the stage and the reaction of the audience was energizing to the students and the music program as a whole."

Michael Lemma | Director of Music | Bergen County Academies | **Hackensack, NJ**

"Many artists have performed for my students, but none have had the impact that Break of Reality has imprinted on us. Their love for music ignited my kids like never before and their passion for sharing music spread to my students like wildfire. Break of Reality is the only group that I look forward to bringing back regularly - they are my go to group for giving us a recharge."

Bingiee Shiu | Director of Music | Memorial High School | **Houston, TX**

"Our program with Break of Reality was absolutely fantastic. They gave our students so many different tools and strategies to take away for creating and playing their own music. Break of Reality was one of the best guest artist workshops we've ever done. You CAN NOT miss these guys!"

Timothy Nowak | Director of Music | Victor Central School District | **Victor, NY**

"Break of Reality has the unique ability to transpose their musical passion through an enthusiastic and engaging collaboration with students. I have worked with all the greats in my 37-year career in this field. Personally, 'Break' engages and helps students discover their musical passion more effectively than anyone out there."

Sheldon J. Fisher | Director of Orchestras | Alpharetta High School | **Alpharetta, GA**

"Break of Reality is a thrilling performance of amazing speed, incredible sound, and wonderful originality. Their workshops are hand-tailored to the needs of their audiences, whether they consist of hundreds of elementary students or dozens of advanced string players. The students sit mesmerized by their words, entranced by their music, and inspired beyond compare. They cannot wait to share their experience with their friends and family. And the teachers? We leave the room just as thrilled, just as inspired, and just as excited to get back to our instruments and try it out ourselves."

Shana Stewart | Director of Orchestra | Penfield High School | **Penfield, NY**