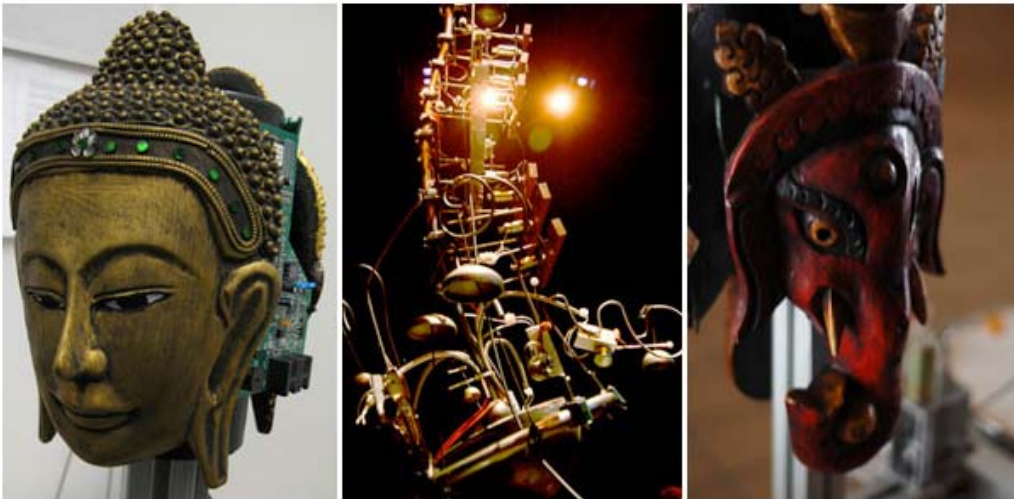




## Who Says Drum Machines Have No Soul?

By Mike Winder

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Until there's a Robot Coachella, the best way to see virtuoso percussionists MahaDeviBot (pictured, left), Tammy (center) and GanaPatiBot (right) will be to attend tomorrow night's [Scream Festival](#) at REDCAT, where the [KarmetIK Machine Orchestra](#) will be making their world premiere.

The brainchild of [Ajay Kapur](#), director of the [Music Technology: Interaction, Intelligence & Design Program](#) at CalArts, the [KarmetIK Machine Orchestra](#) describes itself as bringing together "custom-built robotic musical instruments and human performers with modified instruments, unique musical interfaces, and hemispherical speaker-pods" and promises "a night of new compositions and robotics."

The Orchestra will also feature performances by humans: North Indian sarodist [Ustad Aashish Kahn](#), electronic artist [Curtis Bahn](#), Balinese gamelan master [Nyoman Wenten](#) and vocal synthesis innovator [Perry Cook](#) will be on hand for the evening. And if they're smart, they'll heed the relatively unknown Fourth Law of Robotics: "A robot shall not let an inferior biological life form upstage him at a concert."

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