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Garrison Fewell and Eric Hofbauer

The Lady of Khartoum



Creative Nation Music CNM 010
UPC: 7 94465-8603-2 2

Tracks

01. Prologue: Before the Dream (1:40)
02. The Lady of Khartoum (4:00)
03. Dogon Delta Blues (2:38)
04. Comfort for an Affliction (6:09)
05. Devil at the Salang Pass (3:38)
06. Ma'at's Mood (1:10)
07. Let's Cool One (2:55)
08. Eyes of Nkisi (1:48)
09. A Bourbour's Spell (4:13)
10. Loose Life (2:43)
11. A Cajun Raven (3:47)
12. We Need Your Number (3:48)
13. The Returning Serpent (2:38)
14. Backyard Free Bop (1:29)
15. Farsighted Friendship (6:18)

All tracks composed by Fewell/Hofbauer, except 7 (Monk), 12 (Tchicai/Fewell), 13 (Hofbauer) and 15 (Tchicai).

Recorded April and May 2006 at Bristol Studios in Boston, MA.

Description

The Lady of Khartoum is an eclectic series of duets by Boston-based guitarist/composers Garrison Fewell and Eric Hofbauer. Inspired by the deeper roots of jazz in the music of West Africa, Persia and the Arabic-Islamic world, this intergenerational duo's music juxtaposes ancient traditions with the language and techniques of contemporary improvisation.

"It seemed to both Garrison and Eric that the music of several cultures, reshaped over several tempestuous centuries, pulses through jazz of the 21st century," writes journalist Ed Hazell in the liner notes. "And they put that knowledge to use in subtle and beautiful ways on this album of duets."

The pieces, most of which are completely improvised, reference such diverse elements as Congolese mythology, Delta blues, Sun Ra, a muezzin's call to prayer and the sonorities of traditional instruments such as the oud, kora and African thumb piano. The duo also adds two original compositions to the mix, as well as interpretations of music by Thelonious Monk and John Tchicai.

Musicians

Garrison Fewell:
guitar, slide, sticks, bells and percussion

Eric Hofbauer:
guitar, metal box, sticks and percussion

Distribution sources

Physical distribution by City Hall Records

Digital distribution by Independent Online Distribution Alliance (IODA)

Direct sales from cnmpro.com



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About Garrison Fewell

Garrison Fewell's distinguished career as a performer and educator spans more than 30 years. Known as "one of today's most personal guitar players" (*Boston Phoenix*), he has recorded as a leader/co-leader for the Accurate, Boxholder, Koch, Soul Note and Splasc(H) labels with groups featuring such prominent musicians as George Cables, Billy Hart, Fred Hersch, Charlie Kohlase, Cecil McBee, John Tchicai and Matt Wilson. A Professor of Guitar and Ear Training at Berklee College of Music since 1977, he has also given clinics at dozens of conservatories and festivals across Europe and is the author of the best-selling book, *Jazz Improvisation For Guitar: A Melodic Approach* (Berklee Press).

About Eric Hofbauer

Equally well known for his playing as his efforts as an organizer, Eric Hofbauer personifies the DIY ethic of the new generation of jazz musicians. He has collaborated with many of the Boston music scene's most respected improvisers, while at the same time creating performance and recording opportunities for others under the auspices of his label, Creative Nation Music. He first gained widespread attention for his 2004 solo debut, *American Vanity*, and has since recorded with vocalist Rebecca Shrimpton and The Blueprint Project, which recently earned a 2007 Boston Music Award nomination based on the strength of its third release, *People I Like*, featuring Han Bennink.

Additional Talking Points

- + Fewell and Hofbauer met regularly at a local restaurant to talk music for a year and a half before recording a single note together.
- + 10% of retail sales from this CD will be donated to Mercy Corps to benefit refugees from the conflict in Darfur.
- + To achieve the sound of different instruments, the musicians prepared their guitars with unusual tunings and items such as a playing card, an Altoids® box and a giant paper clip.
- + Both players also augmented their guitars with percussion ranging from African ribbed drum sticks to antique Afghan and Moroccan jewelry to bells from India and the African Yoruba tribe.
- + The final track is John Tchicai's "Farsighted Friendship," based on "Auld Lang Syne," which is recorded here for the first time.
- + The track "A Cajun Raven" is the duo's deconstruction of "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Ma'at's Mood" is a nod to both Monk and the Egypt of Sun Ra.
- + Fewell's other recent recordings as a co-leader are 2005's *Big Chief Dreaming* (Soul Note) and 2006's *Good Night Songs* (Boxholder).
- + Critics have called the music of The Blueprint Project, Hofbauer's decade-old collective with Jared Sims and Tyson Rogers, "witty" (*DownBeat*), "serious fun" (*The Wire*) and "nothing short of glorious" (*AllAboutJazz.com*).



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