

Jazzanova on a Blue Note Trip

Written by Robert ID1992

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When Blue Note Records' Netherlands division approached Jazzanova about assembling a compilation from the storied jazz label's rich catalog, the German DJ/producer collective was in fact surprised, not that they were asked, but rather that they had not been asked sooner. A deep jazz influence has pervaded the group's work from the start, having first been collectors of Blue Note vinyl on their own. After having contributed to 2004's global remix project Blue Note Revisited, the opportunity finally arose for a full-length endeavor. The result is Blue Note Trip.

The German collective consists of DJ team Jurgen von Knoblauch Stephan, Alexander Barck and Claas Brieler, and producers Axel Reinemer, Stefan Leisering and Rosko Kretschmann. Aiming to offer a broad perspective on various cultures and musical genres and melt them together, at their inception Jazzanova's love for jazz and modern beats led to a fusion of almost every genre, from jazz to soul and from hip hop and drum & bass to Latin and boogie.

"Our name might be Jazzanova, but the DJ sets we play now are not jazz", says Jazzanova. "It's house, Latin, dance oriented music. This project only had one theme, old jazz music, that was new for us, but also old. Because that's how we started, by playing old jazz records. Since then we've developed. But by going back, we've made another step forward."

Jazzanova always respects the original artist, something that has earned them a lot of respect as well. "We haven't changed the original songs, we respect them too much, but the song selection and the way we blend them together is typical Jazzanova style. We've tried to create a real "trip." A lot of young people find jazz heavy and difficult, we try to open the door to the

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world of jazz by an accessible compilation. We've chosen to use mainly songs that haven't been in the spotlight as much, although artists like Horace Silver and Gene Harris are included."

The mix features selections from all corners of the storied Blue Note catalog, songs from the 50s (Ken Dorham's "Afrodisia"), 60s (Herbie Hancock's "Maiden Voyage"), and 70s (Donald Byrd's "Think Twice"), both instrumental (Freddie Hubbard's "Blue Spirits") and vocal (Sheila Jordan's "Baltimore Oriole"), both popular (Horace Silver's "Se