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**CARLOS BICA & AZUL feat. FRANK MÖBUS + JIM BLACK**

**Carlos Bica** is considered as one of the most prolific and innovative sound artists from Portugal . Among the several projects Bica leads along with various theatre, film and dance projects, his trio **AZUL** with **Frank Möbus** and **Jim Black** has become his showcase as a bass player and composer.

Bica started his trio "Azul" in the nineties, incorporating tenacious Berlin guitar genius Frank Möbus and fascinating New York drum wizard Jim Black into a unique ensemble concept.

Their debut album, "Azul", recorded for Polygram (Universal), features special guests, singer, Maria João and, trombone player, Ray Anderson. It was voted "Best jazz record of the year" in Portugal in 1996 and it's widely accepted as the best portuguese jazz album ever done.

Azul's next albums, "Twist"(1999), "Look What They've Done To My Song" (2003) and "Believer" (2006) have received international critical acclaim.

"Believer" as visionary as its predecessors, this album features the turntables of DJ Illvibe (aka Vincent von Schlippenbach). Pushed by DJ Illvibe's scratch sounds Azul's multi-urban grooves open a bright window into the future. "The magic of shaping" (Fono Forum).

"Things About" (2011) is Azul's fifth album celebrating this Portuguese-German-American band's 15th anniversary.

" It is an achievement in itself that Carlos Bica and his trio Azul — with Frank Möbus and Jim Black — have never produced a less than extraordinary recording... In each edition the band seems to reborn, and after “Believer”, here are Bica, Möbus and Black again, with fresh ideas, a renovated drive and a deeper poetic feeling. Bravo!...Together they have produced the most serene and lyrical of the trio Azul to date...The CD closes with "Sonho de uma manhã de Outono" but one wants to press repeat and listen to nothing else the whole winter through..."Things About" is the most recent and probably the most perfect of Carlos Bica album's with his trio Azul."

AZUL has been touring in Europe, Canada and Asia and performing in some of the most important festivals worlwide.

Carlos Bica was born in Lisbon (Portugal) and has been living in Berlin for twenty years.

" Known for his lyrical tone on the double bass, Bica has the rare hability to write melodies that are songs without words, haunting and unforgetable. Both a remarkable composer and musician who knows to mix his folkloric, lyrical roots with any modern style he encounters" (Double Bassist)

He worked for many years with Portuguese vocalist Maria João, a cooperation that established him on the international scene. He has also worked with the likes of Portuguese Fado singers Carlos do Carmo, Cristina Branco, Camané, Ana Moura and jazz musicians Ray Anderson, Kenny Wheeler, Aki Takase, Lee Konitz, Mário Laginha, Mathias Schubert, João Paulo E. da Silva, David Friedman, Alexander von Schlippenbach, Albert Mangelsdorf, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Joey Baron, Claudio Puntin, John Zorn, Paolo Fresu, Markus Stockhausen, among others.

*www.carlosbica.com*

**Frank Möbus**, was born in Nürnberg (Germany) and lives currently in Berlin. He is one of the leading European jazz guitarrists and leader of the group "Der Rote Bereich". Möbus is Professor for electric guitar at the Hochschule f. Musik in Weimar / D since 2003 and at the Musikhochschule Luzern / CH since 2007.

He as worked with Louis Sclavis, Chris Speed, Dominique Pifarely, Hal Crook, Vincent Courtois, Gebhard Ullmann, John Schröder, John Tchicai, Josh Roseman, Lindsay Horner, Marion Brown, Nils Wogram, Seamus Blake, Steve Argüelles, John Davis,  John Hollenbeck, Yuri Honing, Han Bennink among many others.

*www.frankmoebus.com*

**Jim Black**, was born in Seattle (USA).

For nearly three decades, Jim Black’s musical creativity and unstoppable curiosity and have made him one of the most in-demand drummers in the jazz/new music scene today. With roots in Seattle, WA, Jim spent his early years exploring all styles of music – from garage rock to big band swing – before heading to Boston, MA to attend the Berklee College of Music. Jim moved to Brooklyn in 1991, where he currently resides, and maintains a busy schedule touring, recording, teaching and enjoying music across the world.

Jim Black co-leads and composes for the bands Pachora and Human Feel, and works in numerous groups alongside some of today’s most creative artists including, Ellery Eskelin, Uri Caine, Chris Speed, Tim Berne, Dave Douglas, Dave Liebman and Laurie Anderson. He appears on over 100 recordings.

Jim finds himself most at home leading and composing original music for his band AlasNoAxis. In 2000, Jim released his acclaimed debut recording, “AlasNoAxis”on Winter & Winter Recordings (called “A masterpiece of future jazz” by The Wire) and toured internationally for enthusiastic audiences. In addition to “Splay”(2002) and “Habyor” (2004), “Dogs of Great Indifference” is the fourth album from the group, which includes Black’s Brooklyn cohort Chris Speed - tenor/clarinet and frequent Icelandic collaborators Hilmar Jensson - guitar, and Skúli Sverrisson - bass.

*www.jimblack.com*