

# OLIVER HAFKE AHMAD

## FUTURE BLUES



Album: FUTURE BLUES  
Artist: Oliver Hafke Ahmad  
Urban Grooves Berlin Records (LC: 33294)  
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"Future Blues" is the second album of saxophonist, composer and producer Oliver Hafke Ahmad from Berlin. It is deeply rooted in jazz and electronic music (house, ambient, techno, breakbeat), using consequently the electronic and digital possibilities of our time and heading for the sounds and rhythms of the future.

Beside some dance floor jazz tracks like "Future Blues" or "Double Bass In The House" or "Major Minor" you will find more ambient music like "Space Traveler" or "Raggatronic", the rock influenced "Dual", the epic techno jazz track "Symphonic Bytes" or the cinematic electro funk "Fight For Power". As an extra there is a break beat version of the housy title track "Future Blues".

On this album Oliver (son of a German mother and an Arab father, grown up in a German-Arab-Afro-American family) refused the traditional way of recording jazz with a band performing at the same time in a studio, what might be a provocation for conservative jazz critics, but what is very common in contemporary pop music. He composed, developed and produced the music over a period of time and improvised on his own tracks on many instruments beside saxophone also on flute, keyboards, synthesizers, guitars and percussion instruments and arranged everything in his computer.

So this album is a kind of self-portrait reflecting music from Miles Davis and John Coltrane to Kraftwerk and Moderat. Instead of a communication between many musicians on a regular jazz

recording you can hear Oliver talking to his own compositions and reacting to his own musical ideas. The music speaks of the analogue individual in a digital world. You hear the warmth, breath and human voice of the alto, tenor, soprano saxophone, flute, guitars and electric bass colliding with the abstract sounds of the synthesizers and drum machines.

## **Biography**

Oliver Hafke Ahmad is the son of an Arab immigrant and a German mother, grown up in a multinational German, Arab, US-American family.



Oliver during the recording sessions of the first album BACK & FOURTH at Greve-Studio in Berlin. Photo: Claudia Speer

Oliver plays alto, tenor, soprano and baritone saxophone and doubles on flute, clarinet and bass clarinet, percussion & keyboard instruments.

Oliver graduated at Hanns-Eisler Hochschule für Musik (today Jazz Institute Berlin JIB) in jazz and popular music beside composing, arranging, counterpoint and history of film music. He studied with Kirk Nurock, Jiggs Whigham, Volker Schlott, Rolf von Nordenskjöld, Gebhard Ullmann, Alfons Wonneberg, Giora Feidman.

He is experienced as music teacher but also as music journalist, concert & festival booker and promoter and has a degree in economics (B.Sc.) from Humboldt University Berlin.