

Composer and bassist Jaromír Honzák releases a new album



Double bassist **Jaromír Honzák**, one of the key figures on the Czech jazz scene and the recipient of five Anděl Awards for the best jazz album of the year, many of whose projects have been the pride of the Animal Music catalogue, releases a new studio album, **"Twenties"**, on 2 December 2022. The recording features regular members of Honzák's band, all eminent Czech jazzmen: **David Dorůžka** (guitar), **Vít Křišťan** (keyboards), **Luboš Soukup** (saxophone, clarinet, flute), and **Martin Novák** (drums and percussions). The album represents a shift towards a slightly lighter compositional style based on melodic patterns, repetitions and longer ambient passages that endow the music with meditative undertone in some of the tunes. *"Twenties is the third album recorded with the same line-up; with musicians who have known me for quite some time and who can understand me. The intention (perhaps I should say intuition) here has been to give vent to the various influences and impulses I've encountered on my musical journey, including*

the more recent ones, such as my fascination with medieval music and early polyphony, and earlier ones based on my relationship with electric jazz, fusion, and pop music. At the same time I felt the urge to somewhat lighten and quieten my music, so instead of intricate metre you get simple melodic lines, instead of carefully composed passages there is free improvisation. Yet, this is no revolution; merely another step in a life-long quest for my music. None of this would be possible without my band and colleagues who turned my often rather vague ideas into beautiful sounds. The overall sound of the album owes a lot to Vít Křišťan's incredibly refined sense of the keyboards and electronic effects," says Jaromír Honzák of the new album.

The album was recorded at Sono Records Doupě studio, in collaboration with sound masters Milan Cimfe, Adam Karlík, and Pavel Karlík. The cover design is by Iveta Bláhová from Studio Najbrt, in collaboration with photographer Dušan Tománek. The album is kindly supported by a grant from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the City of Prague. The album is released by Animal Music on 2 December 2022, both on CD and digitally, and is distributed by SUPRAPHON. As usual, it is also available from the Animal Music e-shop on CD and in digital WAV and MP3 formats.

Line-up:

Luboš Soukup – tenor saxophone, clarinet, flute
David Dorůžka – electric guitar
Martin Novák – drums, percussions, chimes
Vít Křišťan – keyboards
Jaromír Honzák – bass guitar, double bass, toy accordion

List of tracks:

Cycle Life
Little Woman
Tatani
Invention No. 2
Light Mood
Zbrožek
Old Men in Very Short Shorts
Twenties



Jaromír Honzák (*1959) has been a foremost member of the Czech jazz scene since the early 1980s when he founded the band Naimä, together with Zdeněk Zdeněk, František Kop, and Martin Šulc. Soon he became a sought-after accompanist whose talent led him to collaboration with such jazz luminaries as Karel Růžička, Emil Viklický, Karel Velebný, Vojtěch Eckert, Najponk, David Dorůžka, Luboš Soukup, Štěpánka Balcarová, and Marta Kloučková. He has also collaborated on many projects outside jazz, including the Eben Brothers (with whom he recorded all their albums and with whom he still performs regularly), with Iva Bittová and her band Čikori, and he appeared on the double album “Bílé inferno” (White Inferno) and the orchestral project “Zvon” (Bell). Early on in his

career, Honzák’s musical activities spread beyond the borders of Czechoslovakia, also thanks to his studies at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the late 1990s. He has appeared at jazz festivals around the world and collaborated with international stars including Art Farmer, Phil Wilson, Don Friedman, Alan Praskin, Giovanni Basso, and Victor Lewis. He was also one of the initiators of collaborations between Czech and Polish jazz musicians (including Kuba Stankiewicz, Michał Tokaj, Łukasz Żyta) and has brought the two scenes together in many of his recordings and other projects, some of which have carried on to this day. Honzák has been an important initiator of jazz education in the Czech Republic and in 2003 he founded and directed for many years the jazz department of Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory in Prague. Today, he is the director of the jazz department of the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Jaromír Honzák has released eleven albums with his own projects, eight of them with the Animal Music label. Five of these albums received the prestigious Anděl Award for a jazz album of the year.

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