John McLaughlin & the 4th Dimension

Saturday, December 11, 2010, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Veteran guitar master John McLaughlin has earned a place in the top echelon of the six-string pantheon. His virtuosity has been on display in a number of divergent settings throughout his celebrated career, beginning in the early 1960s as the electric guitarist for Georgie Fame’s rocking Blue Flames. From there, he covered a wide swath of musical territory. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he explored electric guitar jazz-rock fusion with Tony Williams’s Lifetime and on Miles Davis’s Bitches Brew, On the Corner and Live at the Cellar Door bands. (It was during Mr. McLaughlin’s tenure with Miles that he first worked with Chick Corea.)

About his new group, the 4th Dimension, Mr. McLaughlin writes:

The 4th Dimension is a group that is the culmination of many years of collaboration with different musicians from different cultures and musical traditions, both Eastern and Western. The music of this group successfully integrates these and other cultural influences while keeping the spontaneous traditions found in jazz.

Gary Husband is the true instrumentalist. With the 4th Dimension, he plays keyboards but can switch to drums with ease. He has performed with many leading musicians, including Allan Holdsworth, Jack Bruce, Jeff Beck, Mike Stern, Christian McBride, Billy Cobham, Yaron Herman, Bob Berg, Gary Moore, Level 42 and Robin Trower, and in Mike and Ian Carr’s bands. His own groups have included such musicians as Randy Brecker, Jerry Goodman, Matthew Garrison and Jim Beard, and he has played with me on recordings and in performances for the past four years.

Mark Mondesir’s reputation as an outstanding drummer has been well established for many years. He has been very active on the London scene, with musicians such as Courtney Pine and Julian Joseph, and on the international scene, with McCoy Tyner, Ravi Coltrane, Gary Thomas, Wynton and Branford Marsalis, John Scofield, Jeff Beck, Joe Zawinul—the list goes on and on. Mark has been featured on recordings with me dating back to 1995, and to a much greater extent during the past four years.

Etienne M’Bappe is one of the finest bassists performing today. He had played with such artists as Ray Charles, Salif Keita, Manu Dibango, Steps Ahead and the Parisian fusion band Ultramarine, before creating his own band, Su La Take, which is based in Paris. Etienne has just recently joined the 4th Dimension, and Gary, Mark and I are proud to have him with us. At the end of November 2009, we recorded a new CD, entitled To the One, and this year we are on tour in Europe and the United States.

I hope you find something in the music we play that speaks to you in ways that you may never have heard before.

With thanks,
John McLaughlin

John McLaughlin guitar
Gary Husband keyboards, drums
Etienne M’Bappe bass
Mark Mondesir drums

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