

JASON ROBINSON'S JANUS ENSEMBLE

DATES AVAILABLE IN 2012 AND 2013

touring quartet

Jason Robinson

tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, alto flute

Liberty Ellman

guitar

Drew Gress

bass

George Schuller

drums

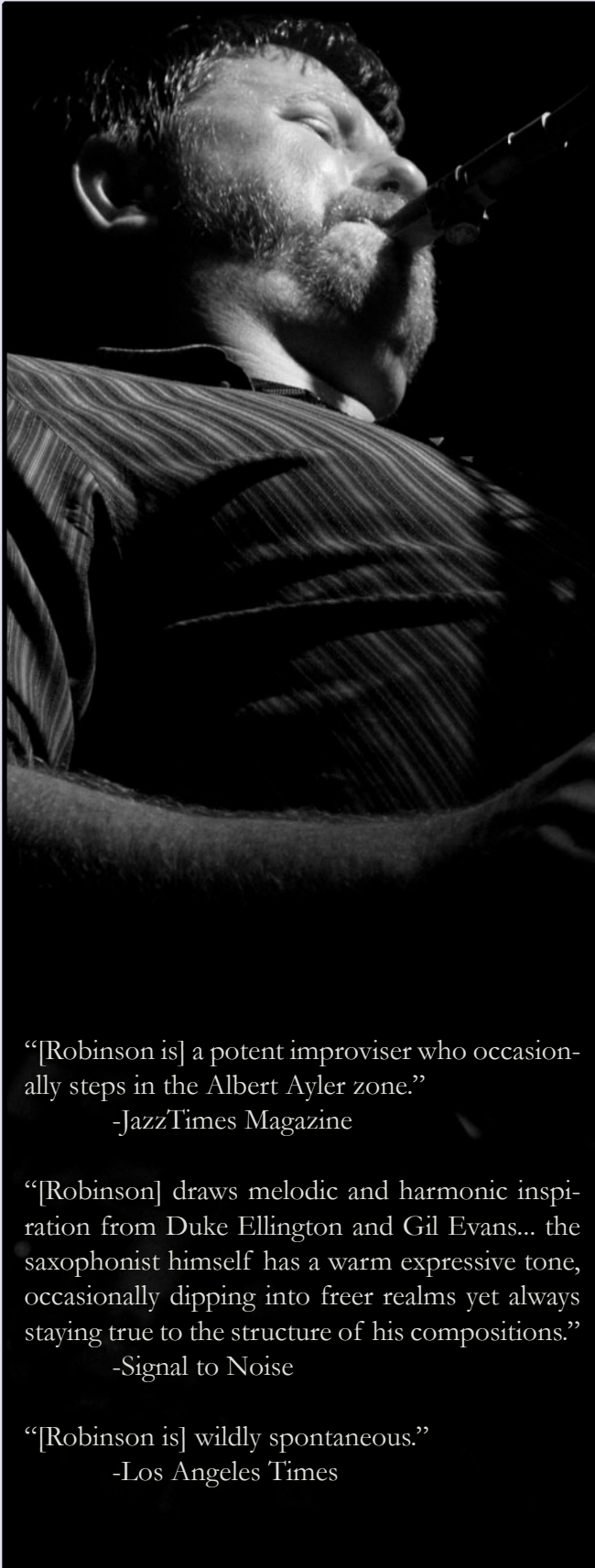
expanded group +

Marty Ehrlich

alto saxophone and bass clarinet

Rudresh Mahanthappa

alto saxophone



“[Robinson is] a potent improviser who occasionally steps in the Albert Ayler zone.”

-JazzTimes Magazine

“[Robinson] draws melodic and harmonic inspiration from Duke Ellington and Gil Evans... the saxophonist himself has a warm expressive tone, occasionally dipping into freer realms yet always staying true to the structure of his compositions.”

-Signal to Noise

“[Robinson is] wildly spontaneous.”

-Los Angeles Times

Jason Robinson's Janus Ensemble—one face looking at the past, one face looking towards the future. Borrowed from Greek mythology, Janus is an apt metaphor for the latest project by critically acclaimed reedist and composer Jason Robinson. Released by Cuneiform Records in October 2010 and celebrated on numerous “top ten” lists of 2010, **The Two Faces of Janus** features a stellar cast of Robinson's most recent New York-based collaborators, all of who are distinguished figures in jazz and improvised music. The music is angular, expressive, emotional and virtuosic and seamlessly moves from hard hitting grooves to beautiful abstract sound worlds. Robinson's playing and composing embodies the duality of the Janus metaphor—his music draws from the rich historical traditions of jazz and improvised music to forge a decidedly modern and unique musical vision. **The Janus Ensemble** also positions Robinson—a West Coast transplant—within New York's most innovative community of creative and visionary jazz musicians. Robinson has arrived.

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JASON ROBINSON - THE TWO FACES OF JANUS

REVIEWS

Cuneiform Records (Rune 311) - released October 2010

"Robinson's compositions manage to draw a straight line through bop, Duke Ellington, Ornette Coleman and Eric Dolphy straight into the modern day with acute-angle swing, blues bluster and memorable themes that seem to scratch at the back of the mind with familiarity without resorting to quotation or imitation."

-Shaun Brady, DownBeat Magazine, FOUR STARS

"modern, oracular, and communal"

-Carlo Wolff, JazzTimes Magazine

"capaciously creative"

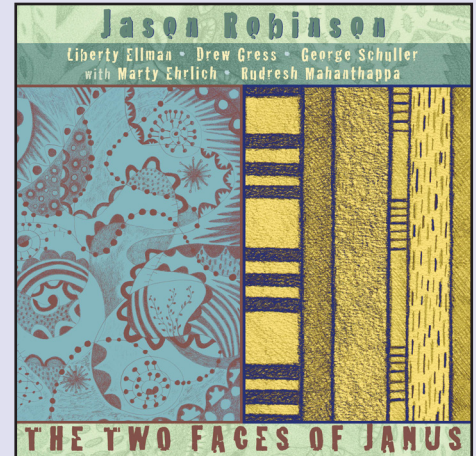
Andrew Gilbert, Boston Globe

"Robinson offers the antithesis to jazz highways frequently traversed."

-Glenn Astarita, All About Jazz

"a recording of staggering diversity"

-James Hall, about.com



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The music of American saxophonist **Jason Robinson** thrives in the fertile overlaps between improvisation and composition, acoustic music and electronics, tradition and experimentalism. Initially a devotee of post-1960s jazz and creative music, Robinson's music is a modern amalgam of cutting-edge trends in jazz practice and electroacoustic music. Robinson is a critically acclaimed distinctive voice in a new generation of creative musicians in equal dialogue with jazz, popular music, experimental music, and electronic music. Fall 2010 marked a watershed in Robinson's output as a leader. He released three concurrent albums showcasing an enormous breadth of creative work, including *The Two Faces of Janus* (Cuneiform), featuring a New York-based ensemble that includes Drew Gress, Liberty Ellman, George Schuller, Marty Ehrlich and Rudresh Mahanthappa; *Cerulean Landscape* (Clean Feed), featuring the long time collaboration of Robinson and acclaimed pianist and composer Anthony Davis; and *Cerberus Reigning* (Accretions), the much anticipated second installment of the "Cerberus" trilogy, featuring

Robinson's solo electroacoustic music. He performs regularly as a soloist (acoustically and with electronics), with his group the Janus Ensemble, and in a variety of collaborative contexts. He has performed at festivals and prominent venues in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe and/or recorded with Peter Kowald, George Lewis, Anthony Davis, Drew Gress, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Marty Ehrlich, Eugene Chadbourne, Earl Howard, Toots and the Maytals, Groundation, Bertram Turetzky, Mark Dresser, John Russell, Roger Turner, Gerry Hemingway, Kei Akagi, Mel Graves, Liberty Ellman, Babatunde Olatunji, Mel Martin, Marco Eneidi, Lisle Ellis, Raphe Malik, Mike Wofford, J.D. Parran, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe, among others.

www.jasonrobinson.com



Robinson's collaborators on *The Two Faces of Janus* include some of the most visionary and highly respected musicians in New York's creative jazz community. Guitarist **Liberty Ellman** was celebrated by the Village Voice for his "rhythmic charge and [...] decisive touch" and can be heard most frequently in Henry Threadgill's ZOOID. Bassist **Drew Gress** is a highly sought after figure who has performed with everyone from Cab Calloway to Tim Berne and John Hollenbeck. A musician of unparalleled precision and artistic vision, Gress is an accomplished composer and bandleader whose musical partnerships have guided jazz into the 21st century. Drummer **George Schuller** is also a prolific composer and bandleader perhaps best known for his twelve piece ensemble *Orange Then Blue and Circle Wide*. Schuller's drumming is stunningly fluid, articulate, and interactive—all reasons why he's been featured on recordings by Joe Lovano, Ran Blake, Burton Greene, and many others. Robinson's deep respect for visionary reed players is evidenced by the inclusion of two friends on the recording—Marty Ehrlich and Rudresh Mahanthappa. Multi-instrumentalist **Marty Ehrlich** has played with a veritable who's who list of creative jazz and experimental music. Several of his recent projects celebrate the music of his mentor Julius Hemphill. Equally respected as a gifted composer, Ehrlich has been lauded by the Village Voice as "one of the most formidable multi-instrumentlists since Eric Dolphy." A Guggenheim Fellow and multiple recipient of Downbeat Magazine Critic's Polls, alto saxophonist **Rudresh Mahanthappa** is known for his virtuosity, unique artistic vision, and remarkable blending of jazz and Indian classic music. In addition to leading his quartet, the Dakshina Ensemble, and other groups, Mahanthappa is also currently performing with Jack DeJohnette, Danilo Perez, and other leading figures in jazz.

www.libertyellman.com
www.drewgress.com
www.georgeschuller.net
www.martyehlich.com
www.rudreshm.com

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