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MARK FOX



Tenor & soprano saxophone, flute, kamal ngoni, composer, bandleader
Album: THREE OCTAVES ABOVE THE SUN by, MARK FOX QUARTET+

At 3 yrs. of age, Mark Fox was able to make sounds from a coronet, given to him by his uncle. Between the ages of 6 until 12, Mark dabbled with the coronet, the violin, the trumpet, finally connecting fiercely with the saxophone when he was 12 (instrument of choice). In high school, synergized Mark's natural ability to bring forth music, the band director requested his presence in the jazz band and he never looked back. Mark's best friend in high school introduced him to jazz playing of John Coltrane's "Expressions". This was a wrap states Mark, and his journey begins. As a young adult, Mark attended Berklee College of Music, studying under George Garzone. Following two years in Boston, Mark choose to complete his higher education at UMass, Amherst where musicians such as Archie Shepp, Yusef Lateef, Billy Taylor and Max Roach were part of the faculty, and Marion Brown, Stephen McCraven and a host of other heavy artists were all a part of the mixture. Mark's objective in attending UMass was to get under Archie Shepp and Yusef Lateef, which came to pass. This ignited Mark's beginning of his professional career in music. Mark moved to NYC in 1990. There he started playing with Warren Smith's Composers Workshop Ensemble, the Boy's Harbor Latin Jazz Big Band and with many other great artist on the NYC scene. In the mid-90s Mark met and worked with George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars. Mark cut a few tracks on a 10 album deal George Clinton had with Sony including a song entitled, "Adam and Eve", which Mark says he doesn't believe ever came out. Mark did a concert at Red Rocks Amphitheater in Denver, Colorado with the P-Funk group and other venues on the East Coast as well.



Producing a massive benefit concert for a mentor, friend and jazz legend, Marion Brown, proved to be an opening to a new endeavor. The concert was 14+ hours long, it featured the great to the greatest of jazz musicians. Archie Shepp, Amina Meyers, Reggie Workman, several members of the World Sax Quartet, Bill Lee and the Family Tree and scores of grand masters of the art, plus there was an art auction of Marion Brown's water colors. By a twist of fate, producing this concert opened the doors to broadcast television and films. This shifted Mark career for over 20 years although his passion for music never left his soul.

Mark remembers that this particular person who allowed him to do his producing of the concert was so amazed at his work, he told him he should be a producer of film. Mark said what is film? He didn't go to the movies or watch television so he knew nothing about the film production. At the end of the day, Mark was making national broadcast commercials as a line producer within about six months of entering the business. Mark has done numerous films on music, jazz, music videos and live concert captures during his multifaceted film career. Some job titles held were Line Producer, UPM, Editor and Director. But for Mark, whenever there was time, he picked up his horn or his ngoni, never leaving his "true love"...music. Moving forward, Mark returned to his saxophone on a full-time professional basis. Creating the Mark Fox Quartet+ in 2015, during a debut concert the band performed, the group was offered a record deal by Cherry Sound Records! Into the studio in December of 2015, "we have continued to grow over the past months" Mark says. Releasing his debut album "Three Octaves Above the Sun" recently at Dazzle Jazz, the premiere jazz club in Denver, Colorado. Scott Thompson PR has come on board as the bands publicist and the band is currently working toward touring internationally and ongoing on the top levels of the jazz market.



Asking Mark does the title of his album have some type of meaning, he replied: "Following a band practice, my drummer, Tom Tilton and I were chatting and Tommy said something to the effect of that the foundation is set up by the rhythm section, then you come in playing three octaves above the sun..." Meaning Mark has such a powerful sound, it's awe-inspiring with a universal nature of the music. Mark liked it and decided to name the album "Three Octaves Above the Sun". The title song was going to be named "Oc" a Mayan word that represents the "white dog" on the Mayan Dreamspell calendar, and means love loyalty heart all in one. And given that the album needed a title track, Mark renamed the tune "Three Octaves Above the Sun". Unbetold, Mark has a feature documentary on jazz and the insider's stuff on the music that he is seeking distribution for currently that has maybe the largest assemblage of legendary jazz artists under one film, which is an awesome conglomeration of artists waiting to get out to the world. Mark considers himself as a "maker" - "I'm very good at creating art and projects..." The next goal is pulling together a booking agency and management team to complete his organization.



In conclusion, Mark is a phenomenal saxophone, flute and ngoni player, composer and bandleader. His style is like not many other sax players, as I have never heard an artist say: "I don't play the music, it's the music that plays me." He is spiritually the conduit for music to come through. Mark states: "I don't think about playing, it's not an intellectual thing to say the least". For example, Mark says, "...it's like sex, you have a partner "BOOM", and you've hit the Jackpot! And then the next time, it might be a lemon. You have no clue or control as to how it's going to be, music is exactly the same thing. There's no trying, it just happens and I'm just doing it! I have no clue, it just comes through me..." like a "Heargasm" as U heard it hear 1st would say. "Music doesn't occur mentally, it's in a different part of the mind, in the sub or unconscious, and different music induces different feelings...Classical music is like the 3rd eye Crown, sacred kind of music... Hip Hop and Funk music hits the lower root and sacral chakras, and jazz hits the third thru sixth chakras, more energy, heart and cerebral...music is like an interstellar trip..." In case the entertainment world wants to know, Mark is maybe the only person on this side of the World who makes the Ngoni (Malian Harp). The Ngoni is an ancient Bambara (West African tribe who's population lives in both Mali and Burkina Faso) instrument family that dates back maybe 8000 years, and literally translates to "harp". This instrument family has a big place in the history of