

LULLABY FOR PLANET EARTH

"I don't force notes, I wait for the composition to arrive naturally. My compositions come from stories and events, feelings and my environment, which is a South African one. They evolve from my need to reach beyond my edge and seek beauty among my angels and demons," wrote bassist Carlo Mombelli, born in Pretoria in 1960, about one of his projects.

The description also applies to ***Lullaby For Planet Earth***: the ten songs develop in a natural-seeming matter-of-factness, in a fascinating balance of space and calm, tension and emotionality. The rhythmic mesh, the melodic interplay, the finest, densest dialogues and the thematic urgency in the trio's common language unfold a primal power of touching tenderness: the lullaby for a world as threatening as it is threatened.

In **Wolfgang Muthspiel** and **Jorge Rossy**, Carlo Mombelli has two congenial partners whose qualities are world-renowned: The guitarist's playing gives every sound the appropriate temperature and atmosphere, virtuosity, drive and immediate presence. The drummer is characterized by a similar quality, whose rhythmic thinking corresponds to a holistic musical thinking and who here not only, but especially also with the vibraphone, sets contrapuntal signs and altogether creates connections to the stringed instruments that seem to follow a musical golden ratio in a dreamlike way.

Not only the wonderful compositions, but also the playing qualities of Carlo Mombelli himself, who, to name only the most famous, has worked with greats such as Mick Goodrick, Charlie Mariano, Egberto Gismonti, Lee Konitz, Marcus Wyatt and Miriam Makeba, unfold masterfully: his magical timing, the dark colors of his electric bass and sometimes here, sometimes there - and next to that of Wolfgang Muthspiel - the wonderful breeze of his surprisingly bright singing voice, paired with his own energy and presence and the musical feeling for the whole: in all the demons and angels, the beauty of this music and - connected to it - the hope as *Lullaby For Planet Earth* can be found as inspiring as it is unmistakable.

Steff Rohrbach, 24. August 2022