

File

Under

Zawinul

**HUNNIA RECORDS**

File Under Zawinul

With the death of Joe Zawinul in 2007, one of the most important voices in jazz fell silent forever. Today the only way to savour his inimitable keyboard style, full of captivating tonal colour and harmony, a virtuosity that can be relentless and at the same time gentle, and his rhythmic dynamism is to listen to one of the (fortunately numerous) recordings he left behind. Thus the works that made him one of the most significant composers of the 20th century live on.

Who could be better suited to provide fresh performances of Joe Zawinul's compositions than the musicians with whom he enjoyed playing for so many years? For two decades, from 1998 to 2007, the keyboardist performed with his own band favourite, the Zawinul Syndicate, which took the melodies of the Venetian composer and transformed them into a world-music aura experience that was influenced by the styles of every continent.

Even after the death of their leader, the band continued to play and tour together, calling themselves The Syndicate and keeping the musical heritage of their mentor alive. Thus it is only logical for The Syndicate to issue an album of their own. The title is *File Under Zawinul* and the CD is comprised of six works by the master. They are played in his unmistakable style but at the same time in independent interpretations that reflect the characters of the musicians.

The rhythm group of this Syndicate formation looks back on a long history with Joe Zawinul. The brilliant drummer Peco Sery and bassist Antoine Wade along with percussionists Aziz Sahnou and Jorge Bexerra appeared on stage with the keyboardist during many tours together. The wonderful vocalist Sabine Kabongo also had a hand in shaping the Zawinul Syndicate's style and plays a decisive role in helping The Syndicate further develop their sound.

Along with these Zawinul veterans, a number of newcomers provide impressive examples of their musical skills. The most daring are probably the pianists Thierry Eliez and Eric Mouquet, who inevitably invite comparison with keyboardist Zawinul, sometimes quoting him to acknowledge his musical presence, at other times demonstrating their own personal styles. With the addition of Emile Parisien, The Syndicate has a saxophonist for the first time in its history. After Weather Report broke up and Zawinul parted ways with its co-founder, saxophonist Wayne Shorter, he didn't use the saxophone again. In his introduction to the Weather Report classic "Nubian Sundance" Parisien enters and an exciting creative dialogue with the original. In his playing, guitarist Murrir Hossain seamlessly joins the line of great Syndicate guitarists. Unfiringly he weaves a rocking, swinging rhythmic fabric that supports the whole ensemble, and his solos are full of indelible emotionalism.

But the solos are not what make this fabulous album stand out. Each of the musicians is a virtuoso in his own right, but each of them makes himself part of the whole, thus helping the compositions achieve their full effect. As Joe Zawinul himself once said: "Whenever solo, we always solo."

File Under Zawinul: The master would certainly have taken great pleasure in listening to this album, a posthumous present to mark his 80th birthday.

Gunther Baumann

Author of *Zawinul – Ein Leben aus Jazz*
(Zawinul, A Life of Jazz)

Alime WADE – bass

My dream was to play with THE LORD of music, like Buddha is THE MAN in his religion...



Thierry ELIEZ – keyboards, acoustic piano

The music of Joe is like a Big Pyramid... full of mysteries, colours, codes, messages... there is always places to explore and discoveries to share in this musical world. Thanks to the band, Risa and to Mr. Joe Zawinul for his legacy and constant inspiration.



Emilie PARISIEN – saxophone

It is a honour for me being a member of The Syndicate, playing with great passion to perpetuate the music of Joe Zawinul.



Paco SERY – drums

The promise I made to Papa's is to continue The Syndicate and to make it grow even more, because for me this is the most beautiful story that was... and THAT will stay. This is our heritage.



Aziz SHAMMAOUI – percussion, vocal

For the Caravan of Syndicate and for the instant that grooves, for that we all have in common... The Love.



Jorge BEZERRA — percussion

It always has been a great adventure for me, to be on stage with such great musicians. I'm lucky and proud to be part of this community.



Munir HOSSN — guitar

My first encounter with Joe's music happened when I first listened to Miles Davies' *Phocas Brev* record. His collaboration as a musician on the record caught my attention so much that from this moment on I started researching this great musician. Musicians of our generation have so much liberty and ways of expression but also possibility to spread our musical culture so proudly that was reproduced to us by Joe Zawmul.



Sabine KABOUHOU — vocal

Thank you Joe, for the love and joy we shared, thank you for the music and the creative strength you revealed in me.



Eric MOUQUET — keyboards, vocoder,

Haken continuum, fingerboard

Play electric, sound acoustic — said Mr. Zawmul, this sentence leads me for this recording session in Budapest. I want to thanks again all members of this dream team band for their warm welcome and also my dear Risa who generated all this fantastic adventure.



Klaus ANTON — the sound engineer

When they play Joe's Music, I feel their strength and freedom. I share their perceptions, their feelings and their experiences. Without suspecting it, they make a great gift for me. If you exchange sense and love, what do you hear?



01. **Gibraltar** 7:08*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat
02. **They Had A Dream** 8:38*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat
03. **Victims of the Groove** 6:57*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat
04. **Between The Thighs** 5:08*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat
05. **Midian Sundance** 8:36*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat
06. **Balled for Two Musicians** 7:31*
Joe Zawmul / Mulatu Astat

All composition: **Joe Zawmul**

Producer: **Rino Zucchi**
Executive producer: **Hunnia Robert Cohen**
Recorded: **SuperSize Recording Studio** in 13-17th February, 2012
Mixed and mastered by: **Howard Allen, Klaus Allen**
Design: **Da Kristidin** (artwork)

JOE ZAWMUL – one of the most legendary, visionary and influential musicians and bandleaders that jazz ever produced. His passing in 2007 left a big hole in the jazz world. But if anybody could fill the gap, it would be **THE SYNDICATE** – the band that he chose as the vehicle for his innovative and genre-busting musical styles after the breakup of Weather Report in the mid 80s.

Joe Zawmul had a true genius touch in picking his band-members, not only picked because of their virtuosic instrumental skills, but with a special ear for how, ultimately, each musician would contribute to while that was totally unique in Joe Zawmul's vision.

THE SYNDICATE has decided to keep the band together, and continue and expand on the vision that Joe Zawmul laid out. In 2012, Joe Zawmul would have celebrated his 80th birthday. On this occasion **THE SYNDICATE** recorded this album.

Thanks to...
The great Syndicate Band for their enthusiasm and love for the music: **Shane Keegan** and **Eric Maynard**, **Klaus Allen** for his professional work, **Hunnia Records**, **Robert** and **Atish**.

Special thanks to:
Gerhard Haarer, who makes this CD possible

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