

Jazzhead and REgroovable Jazz presents:

ALDO BASSI QUARTET: DISTANZE



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Jazz has a grand tradition of trumpeters. The likes of Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Freddie Hubbard dazzle the listener with the brassy brilliance of their sound, and the irresistible momentum of their solos. There is an equally esteemed lineage of trumpeters (like Miles Davis and Chet Baker, and more recently, Europeans like Enrico Rava and Kenny Wheeler) whose sound is more subdued, though still richly expressive, and whose solos rely heavily on space and suggestion. It is the latter tradition that Aldo Bassi upholds in such impressive style.

Born in Rome in 1962, Bassi first took to the stage in 1976, giving concerts in Rome and Lazio with the Gruppo Cameristico Aureliano conducted by Paolo Ciardi. He played Strauss' Don Giovanni with the Orchestra Sinfonica of Cagliari in 1980 and got his diploma at the Conservatorio di Musica di Santa Cecilia in 1981. Following military service in 1982, Bassi studied trumpet with Maestro Alberto Corvini and later accepted the first trumpet chair in the Saint Louis Big Band conducted by Bruno Biriaco, with whom he collaborated for a many years. Continuing his education, Bassi travelled to Cuba in 1988 to study with Juan Munguia and Arturo Sandoval.

Bassi's skills embrace a broad range of musical styles: fusion, funk, pop, dance, Brazilian jazz, Latin jazz, salsa and most of all, jazz. His extensive recording credits include sessions with Tankio Band, Francesco Santucci's Group (*Who's Seen Katty Page?*), *Conversation* with Franco Piana's Big Band and Mauro Zazzarini's Quintet. Since 1992, Bassi has co-led the Bassi-Giuliani Quintet with another rising star of Italian jazz, alto saxophonist Rosario Giuliani. They have recorded the CD, *L'incontro*.

Bassi's live performance credentials are no less impressive. He appeared at Umbria Jazz in 1988 (Alberto Corvini's Big Band with other important guests such as Tony Scott) and in 1992 (Francesco Santucci's Group with whom he also played Tagliacozzo Jazz). He has given concerts with the Testaccio Jazz Orchestra conducted by Giancarlo Gazzani. In 1996, the Bassi-Giuliani Quintet performed Terracina Jazz Festival and was broadcast live by Radio RAI from the Jazz & Image Festival where he also performed with the Big Bright Big Band with George Garzone as guest.

Over the last decade, Bassi has been in great demand for session work as a first trumpet and trumpet soloist, for Italian radio or TV shows. He has recorded soundtracks composed and conducted by such names as Ennio Moricone, Manuel De Sica, Gianni Ferrio and Renato Serio. He has been teaching at the best jazz schools in Rome, such as CIAC, Saint Louis, Universita' Della Musica, and Lab 2.

In 1998, Bassi formed the Aldo Bassi Quartet to develop his own original jazz compositions. This is the band we hear on *Distanze* - guitarist Enrico Bracco, bassist Stefano Cantarano and drummer Alessandro Svampa. For several tracks, the quartet is joined by Mauro Panziera, whose oboe and English horn add a very distinctive ingredient to the group's music.

Distanze (all tracks written by Bassi, with the exception of *Waterfall*, by Cantarano) covers a range of moods, from the attractive waltz of *Dear Tom* (a tribute to New York trumpeter Tom Harrell), through the tense conversation between the two horns at the start of *Past Years*, to the probing, bluesy trumpet over a funky backbeat on *Reprise*, or the graceful melodicism of the title track, *Distanze*. Throughout we are reminded of the breadth of Bassi's experience.

Distanze's acoustic grooves and eloquent simplicity ensure that this release will consolidate Bassi's reputation as one of the finest trumpeters on the jazz scene.



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