



PRESS RELEASE



BILLY COBHAM'S CULTUREMIX COLOURS

IOR CD 77067-2



We still remember well the marvellous "Culture Mix" (IN+OUT Rec. CD 77049-2), drummer Billy Cobham's first CD as leader after a ten-year gap. Supported by a dream team of artists from five nations, the fusion wizard and doyen of jazz-rock energetically changed for the better a genre which has sometimes been criticised as anachronistic. This new creative impulse proved to be so successful that, within two years, Cobham has come up with follow-up production with his highly accomplished team of musicians, which surpasses the first album in terms imaginative scoring and improvisation.

Panama-born Cobham established himself as an exceptional percussionist for the first time when he introduced electronic drums to the stage while touring Europe with Horace Silver at the end of the 1960s. His collaborations with Miles Davis on the landmark album "Bitches Brew" and on the OST "Tribute to Jack Johnson" are legendary, as are his recordings with the Maravishnu Orchestra during its heyday. With two landmark LPs for Atlantic – "Spectrum" (1973) and "Crosswinds" (1974) - he won international acclaim as a fusion master. Teaming up with the Brecker Brothers and playing with George Duke for a memorable summit at the Montreux Jazz Festival are just two highlights of his 1970s activity. Since then, Swiss resident Cobham has played with a host of major jazz musicians, from Ron Carter and Grover Washington Jr. to Larry Coryell and Bireli Lagrene, He also took the opportunity to move into other musical fields. Thus he was featured on Peter Gabriel's soundtrack for the Scorsese movie "Passion" and worked with such African and Indian

percussionists as Farafina and Zakir Hussain, to name just two. In Scandinavian contemporary jazz, he left his mark with the "Nordic" project. And, as a dedicated tutor and workshop leader, he has published an impressive number of multimedia educational tools, created by his own company. His most recent productions come as something of a surprise. He created a trio with Kenny Barron and Ron Carter, which he named "The Art of Three" (IN+OUT Rec. CD 77045-2), and on which, for the first time in his long career, he demonstrates his aptitude for working in a piano trio. This enterprise was followed by another outstanding acoustic album, "The Art Of Five" (IN+OUT Rec. CD 77063-2), featuring trumpet player Guy Barker (of Sting fame) and Donald Harrison on alto saxophone. This exquisite quintet recording and "Culture Mix", proved to be two major highlights – the first unplugged, the second electric - of the new millennium in Mr. Cobham's artistic universe.

"Culture Mix Colours" now adds a new fusion finesse to Cobham's output. We once again meet with the regular staff of his new dream team: The impulsive,



but highly sensitive, guitar player Per Gade from Denmark and Cobham's long time companion, German bass player, Stefan Rademacher, are aboard, as is Wilbert "Junior" Gill, with his steel pans. New to the band is Marcos Ubeda, born in Spain and raised in Sweden, who produces multi-faceted sounds from his keyboards.

– such is the mood of the Brazilian-tinged "Coffee Brown – Olive Green". Guest player, Guy Barker, surprises with a muted trumpet intro, while Gade offers a pleasingly sultry solo towards the end. "Red & Yellow Cabriolet", the fast and furious final track, includes a breakneck drum cadence by the master himself.

On this album, Cobham once again leaves no doubt as to his being the king of the fusion drummers. Just listen to "Volcano", on which he displays a plethora of percussive tricks while the band builds up to an explosive climax, inspired by Gade's intermezzo. And "Where Do We Go From Here?" conjures up a fresh breeze from the Caribbean, with the singing pans of Gill in dialogue with Ubeda's keyboard work. "Cara Mia" is an amazing love song miniature with groovy acoustic guitar and the combo performing in sunny, Mediterranean mode. In "Black Orchid", we encounter a complex masterpiece full of melancholy, shadowy beauty which showcases the band's capacity for intricate interaction. Elegant and sensual

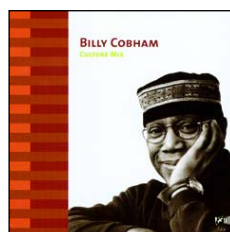
Cobham's multi-cultural band strengthens its reputation as an exciting fusion group, impressing with its powerful jazz-rock elements as well as with the more intimate, ethnic-coloured sounds. The mix, done in Peter Gabriel's RealWorld studios, has undoubtedly contributed to the powerful global appeal of this new production.



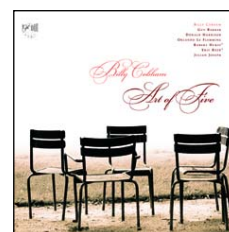
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IOR CD 77045-2
Billy Cobham
The Art Of Three



IOR CD 77049-2
Billy Cobham
Culture Mix



IOR CD 77063-2
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The Art Of Five