



JUSSI REIJONEN *un*

Jussi Reijonen - fretless/fretted guitars, oud
Utar Artun - piano, percussion
Bruno Råberg - acoustic bass
Tareq Rantisi - percussion
Sergio Martinez - percussion

It is said that music does not lie in the notes themselves but between them, and it is exactly in that space where Boston-based Finnish fretless/fretted guitarist and oudist **JUSSI REIJONEN**'s music thrives and blossoms. His eagerly anticipated debut album, *un*, due for release in early 2013 (*US release 26 February 2013*), has been a lifelong musical journey in the making - a journey that spans three decades and four continents, and which has taken him from his native Northern Finland to years spent living in the Middle East, East Africa, and now the United States. From the very first notes of opening piece *Serpentine* until the last echoes of album closer, *Kaiku*, have faded into the ether, the album never once loosens its grip on the unsuspecting listener; what lies between the bookends is a breathtaking musical journey that walks a crooked tightrope between tension and resolution and gracefully dances between the traditions of American and Scandinavian jazz and the folk musics of the Middle East and Africa in its thirst for new sounds and textures. In this day an age, where the term is so frequently misused, *un* is true *world* music from a true *world* citizen - music in its most honest, heartfelt true sense; music with no frontiers.

In keeping with the idea of creating true modern *world* music, *un* brings together a unique and international cast of five seasoned musicians from Finland, Turkey, Sweden, Palestine and Spain. Between the five of them, **JUSSI REIJONEN**: *un* - Reijonen on fretless/fretted guitars and the 11-string Arabic lute oud, **Utar Artun** on piano, **Bruno Råberg** on acoustic bass, and **Tareq Rantisi** and **Sergio Martinez** on percussion - shares an impressive resume that reads like a who's-who of contemporary jazz and world music: the members have worked with the likes of **Paul Simon**, **Jack deJohnette**, **Pepe de Lucia**, **Enrique Morente**, **Diego el Cigala**, **Simon Shaheen**, **Javier Limón**, **María Schneider**, **Rudresh Mahanthappa**, **Bobby McFerrin**, **George Garzone**, **Ben Monder**, **Mick Goodrick**, **David Fiuczynski**, **Steve Smith**, and **Alejandro Sanz**. With Reijonen handling compositions, arrangements, and production on the album, the quintet traverses the supposed boundaries between musical cultures with a blend of humility, grace, and presence, creating a truly enchanting musical mosaic.



Jussi Reijonen's debut album *un* is slated to be released in early 2013 (*Finland release: 25 Jan 2013; US release: 26 Feb 2013*).

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JUSSI REIJONEN - fretless/fretted guitars, oud



Born in Rovaniemi, a small town on the Arctic Circle in northern Finland, fretted/fretless guitarist and oudist **JUSSI REIJONEN** is truly the product of a world with few frontiers. Having grown up moving back and forth between Finnish Lapland, the Middle East, and East Africa, and currently living in Boston MA, USA, Jussi has spent his life soaking up the sounds, scents and shades of Nordic, Middle Eastern, African, and now American culture, which are all reflected in his music.

As his musical expression started to transcend the constraints of rock, fusion and jazz, Jussi started to trace his musical roots backwards, and, finding the guitar limiting, he picked up the Arabic lute oud; the fretless guitar followed soon after. As his music studies progressed, he left Helsinki in 2008 after many years working as a freelancer with many of the top artists on the Finnish music scene to attend Berklee College of Music, where he studied with Mick Goodrick and David Tronzo, among others. After graduating with highest honors in only two years, he decided to stay in the US and is currently attending New England Conservatory for his Master's degree on a scholarship.

Along his path, Jussi has worked as bandleader, sideman, composer or arranger with numerous front row artists both in and outside his native Finland, and has performed extensively in Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Germany, France, Lebanon and the United States. After relocating to the US in 2008, he has had the honor of performing with the likes of renowned jazz drummer **Jack deJohnette**, flamenco *cantaor* legend **Pepe de Lucia**, Spanish multi-Grammy-award-winning producer and flamenco guitarist **Javier Limón**, Palestinian oud/violin master **Simon Shaheen**, fretless guitar pioneer **David Fiuczynski**, Turkey's gypsy clarinet legend **Hüsnü Senlendirici**, and Lebanese nay virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist **Bassam Saba**, to name a few.

UTAR ARTUN - piano, percussion



Pianist/percussionist **UTAR ARTUN** (Utar Dündarartun) was born in Ankara, Turkey. In 2006, he arranged musical pieces for the theater play *The 7 Women*. Artun arranged many movie soundtracks and oldies for symphonic orchestra, and the **Bursa Regional Symphony Orchestra** performed his arrangements in live concerts such as the 2008-2011 New Year Concert and the International Bursa Music Festival in 2009. Artun performed in the 7th Eskisehir Jazz Festival, 12th International Ankara Jazz Festival, 6th International Mersin Music Festival and 25th International Ankara Music Festival. In 2008, Artun graduated from the Percussion Department of Hacettepe Conservatory with 2nd Rank Degree of School Placement Award.

He went on to study at Berklee College of Music on a scholarship, graduating summa cum laude in 2.5 years, and receiving the **Honorable Mention** from the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition, the Barnes&Noble award and the Brian Oliver Memorial award. He was among the finalists of ASCAP's Morton Gould Young Composers Competition (2010) and Young Jazz Composers Competition (2011). In January 2010 and 2012, one of his compositions was selected for the Jazz Revelation Records album. He is currently a **JRR artist** of Berklee College of Music, appearing on the *Birds of a Feather*, *Octave*, and *Ripple Effect* albums. In October 2011, he performed with **Kevin Eubanks** in the studio recording session of WGBH Studios in Boston, MA. He has performed in workshops, performances and clinics with **Bobby McFerrin**, **Maria Schneider**, **Rudresh Mahanthappa**, **Simon Shaheen**, **Jason Lindner**, **Kenwood Dennard** and **David Fiuczynski**. He is involved with the **Rhythm of the Universe Project** as arranger, performer and orchestrator, as well as the **Planet MicroJam Institute** at Berklee.

Artun has done numerous studio recordings, festival concerts and performances in Boston, MA and also New York, NY such as Undead Jazz Festival, and has been featured in numerous interviews, and national and international television. Most recently, Artun has toured as performer and clinician in Switzerland (HKB-Bern), France (Paris, Sunset and Nancy, Music Academy International), Austria (Innsbruck- Treibhaus), Germany (Berlin-Aufsturz), the Netherlands (Amsterdam- Panama) and Italy (Gezmataz Jazz Festival, Genova). He had a debut performance with Quintet 57 at Istanbul Jazz Festival. He won the 18th HALICI MIDI Composition Contest and 2nd place in the Berklee Film Scoring Contest 7. Artun is one of the highly awarded scholars of Cagdas Egitim Vakfi. He arranged a music video with Rhythm of the Universe called "Bizim Eller ne guzel eller" for the most recent earthquake that devastated the city of Van, Turkey. The music video had numerous broadcasts on national and international TV channels. More than 50 million people have watched it to date.

BRUNO RÅBERG - *acoustic bass*



BRUNO RÅBERG is an internationally renowned bass player and composer. Since coming to the US from his native Sweden in 1981, he has made six recordings as a leader, about 30 as a sideman, and has performed with numerous world-class artists.

Some of the distinguished musicians Råberg has performed/recorded with include **Jerry Bergonzi, George Garzone, Sam Rivers, Billy Pierce, Donny McCaslin, Billy Hart, Bob Moses, Mick Goodrick, Ben Monder, Bruce Barth, Jim Black, Matt Wilson, Bob Mintzer, and John Medeski.** Tours have taken Råberg throughout Europe,

Scandinavia, USA, Japan, Africa, and Central America, and to jazz festivals such as Pori, Umbria, Monterey, Nancy, Bologna, Graz, Stockholm, Boston, and Cape Town. Råberg is currently leading several constellations of his own: the **Lifelines Quartet** with **Chris Cheek, Ben Monder, and Ted Poor;** the **Bruno Råberg Nonet** featuring **Allan Chase, Phil Grenadier, Jeff Galindo,** and others; and **Ascensio,** a quartet with Allan Chase, **Phil Grenadier,** and **Marcello Pellitteri.** Råberg tours regularly in Japan as a member of trumpeter **Tiger Okoshis's** Quintet.

Bruno Råberg grew up in the countryside of Sweden. At 20, Swedish trombone virtuoso Eje Thelin drafted him. He stayed with Thelin's group for 4 years and toured throughout Europe and the US, performing at the Monterey Jazz in 1976. During his 20s, Råberg performed and recorded with numerous renowned Swedish and European artists such as Bobo Stenson, Monica Zetterlund, Zpigniew Seifert, Nils Landgren, Lennart Åberg, and Ulf Wakenius.

In 1981, Råberg left his performing career in Europe to come to the USA, thanks to a scholarship to the New England Conservatory in Boston. There he studied with Miroslav Vitous, Mick Goodrick, George Russell, and Bob Moses. He graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies with Distinction in Performance.

As an educator, Bruno Råberg stands out. He has been a professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston since 1986 and has traveled to Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador and Costa Rica as a clinician/performer for Berklee.

In 2007 Råberg received the prestigious Berklee Fellowship Grant.

TAREQ RANTISI - *percussion*



TAREQ RANTISI was born in Jerusalem, Palestine. Self-taught, he started his career playing Middle Eastern percussion at the age of 12 and has performed in various concerts and festivals in the Arab world and in Europe. Before moving to the US, Tareq had already shared the stage with some of the most distinguished musicians and associations in the region, including **Kudsi Erguner, Manfred Leuchter, Ilham Al Madfai,** Edward Said National Conservatory, the Popular Arts Center and the Alkamandjati Association.

In 2008, Tareq received the Al-Qattan Foundation Music Scholarship to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the United States, receiving a degree in Percussion Performance and graduating with Honors. During his education in Boston, he studied with numerous legendary musicians and educators: Jamey Haddad, Joe Galeota, Manuel "Eguie" Castrillo, Ernesto Diaz, and Mikael Ringquist. Tareq's studies brought him in to a deep dialogue with styles from jazz to Afro-Cuban to Carnatic Indian to Brazilian and more. This broad range of study has allowed him to play virtually any percussion instrument and musical style with ease and incomparable musicality.

Since his arrival in the United States, Tareq has performed with some of the biggest names in modern music, including **Jack deJohnette, Steve Smith, Paul Winter, Simon Shaheen, Aaron Goldberg, Srinivas Krishnan, Victor Mendoza, Hüsnü Senlendirici, Eguie Castrillo, Bertram Lehmann, Bassam Saba, Mehmet Ali Sanlikol, Bruno Råberg, Javier Limón, Pepe de Lucía, Glen Velez** and many other important virtuosic musicians, composers and groups.

Alongside his musical performing career, Tareq has developed a body of educational work, offering master classes, workshops and private lessons throughout the world in collaboration with Brandeis University, The Center for Arabic Culture, NAFDA, The Gaza Music School, Qattan Foundation, Al Kamandjati Association, Kufiyeh Center of Music, and the Yamaha Music School.

SERGIO MARTINEZ - *percussion*



SERGIO MARTINEZ was born in Madrid, Spain. He grew up in a very musical family and started playing percussion at age 15, studying with **Paco de Lucia's** percussionist **Rubem Dantas** and Afro-Latin percussion with Rogerio da Souza and Luisito Dulzaides. He added courses in Hindu percussion with Ramesh Sotham and studied percussion and drumset in el Taller de Musicos, becoming part of the Latin Jazz Big Band conducted by Cuban guitarist Kotan. Later, he developed an interest in Flamenco music and started his professional career at age 19 accompanying top Flamenco artists, touring and playing in some of the most important theatres, including **Paris Opera, Sydney Opera House** and **Teatro de Real Madrid**, to name a few.

Combining his dedication to Flamenco with learning other styles of music and their rhythms and percussions, Sergio started becoming a very versatile musician who developed his voice as a side man for numerous bands, as a studio recording musician and as a leader of different bands and projects.

During this process, Sergio has recorded and played for artists like **Enrique Morente, Jose Merce, Diego el Cigala** and **Jorge Pardo** among many others, accompanied some of the most important flamenco dancers like **Joaquin Cortes, Antonio Canales** and **Rocio Molina**, and toured all around the world, participating in some of the most important Flamenco, jazz and world music festivals, including Montreal Jazz, Monterey Jazz, Panama Jazz, and WOMAD in Adelaide, to name a few.

He decided to audition for, and won, a scholarship for **Berklee College of Music**, and in September 2010 began studies in the Berklee Global Jazz Institute, whose artistic director is the celebrated Panamanian jazz pianist and composer **Danilo Perez**.

Sergio's knowledge in the Flamenco tradition has taken him to record for singers like **Paul Simon**, and has played and recorded with some important jazz musicians like **Dave Liebman, Jeff Ballard, Joe Lovano, John Patitucci, Danilo Perez, Terry Lyne Carrinton** and **Jamey Haddad**.

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