

# BRAITHWAITE & KATZ

Communications

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Guitarist/Oudist/Composer Jussi Reijonen's Debut Album *Jussi Reijonen: un*  
Featuring the Finnish musician with collaborators from 4 other countries: pianist Utar Artun,  
bassist Bruno Råberg, and percussionists Tareq Rantisi and Sergio Martinez  
To be released February 26, 2013 unmusic**

Composer **Jussi Reijonen** is truly a product of where he grew up: in five countries across three continents. The multi-instrumentalist plays fretless/fretted guitar and oud (11-string Arabic lute), and his new CD ***Jussi Reijonen: un*** is a stunning crystallization of the interplay between Eastern and Western musical traditions. Bringing together seasoned musicians from Finland, Turkey, Sweden, Palestine and Spain, *un* pays tribute to the traditions of American and Scandinavian jazz as well as the folk musics of the Middle East and Africa. *un* will be released on February 26, 2013 in the USA, following a January release in Finland.

Just as Reijonen cannot be tied to one musical tradition, his quintet also spans the globe. The virtuosic group includes Turkish pianist **Utar Artun**, Swedish acoustic bass player **Bruno Råberg**, Palestinian percussionist **Tareq Rantisi** and Spanish percussionist **Sergio Martínez**. Joining them as guest artists are qanun player **Ali Amr** on "Bayatiful," and vocalist **Eva Louhivuori** on "Kaiku."

Together, these extraordinary musicians honor American and Nordic jazz and folk traditions of the Middle East and Africa on four pieces composed and arranged by Reijonen, one piece - "Bayatiful" - by Reijonen and Amr and one cover, an other-worldly interpretation of John Coltrane's *Naima*. In this fascinating multi-cultural collage the open spaces and silences of Scandinavia effortlessly rub shoulders with the *maqamat* of the Arab world and the rhythmic richness of India and West Africa, creating a truly enchanting musical mosaic.

Born in Rovaniemi, a small town on the Arctic Circle in northern Finland and moving between Finnish Lapland, the Middle East and East Africa, **Reijonen** has spent his life soaking up the sounds of various cultures. He studied music at the Pop & Jazz Konservatorio in Helsinki, as well as at Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory in Boston, earning his Master's degree in the groundbreaking Contemporary Improvisation Department.

While living in Finland, he played with the country's top artists; he has also performed in the USA, Sweden, Latvia, Germany, France and Lebanon with top names such as jazz drummer Jack deJohnette, legendary flamenco singer Pepe de Lucia, multiple Grammy Award-winning flamenco guitarist and producer 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, among many others.

Reijonen's quintet shares an impressive resume that reads like a who's-who of jazz and world music: the members have worked with the likes of Paul Simon, Enrique Morente, Diego el Cigala, Maria Schneider, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Bobby McFerrin, George Garzone, Ben Monder, Mick Goodrick, Steve Smith, and Alejandro Sanz. On *un*, they have created a compelling modern world music sound for an increasingly multi-cultural world.

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<http://jussireijonen.com/>