

material records presents:

MGT – “FROM A DREAM”

Wolfgang Muthspiel, Slava Grigoryan, Ralph Towner
MRE 024-2

release date: February 13th, 2009

Three different styles and approaches of playing the guitar, three individualists, three generations from three continents – MGT is Wolfgang Muthspiel, Slava Grigoryan and Ralph Towner.

US guitar legend Ralph Towner, the extraordinary Austrian innovator and European Jazz prize winner Wolfgang Muthspiel and Australian wunderkind Slava Grigoryan formed MGT in 2005, and performed two extensive tours and recorded two studio projects in Australia, where Slava Grigoryan – the youngest of the trio – lives. The music for the Trio mainly composed by Ralph Towner and Wolfgang Muthspiel together they create their own distinctive sound cosmos by use of various guitars (baritone guitar, 12-string guitar, electric guitar, classical guitar).

The cd and live program shows the common ground of the three musicians – all classically trained and inspired, while each guitarist brings a distinctive individual approach to his own composition and performance.

In March 2009, for the first time together in concert in Europe, the trio will perform a string of spellbinding performances accompanied by the release of their debut album on Material records, „From a Dream“.

MGT will perform solo, duo and trio sets for the audience with pre-composed material, spontaneous composition and improvised mastery.

In February 2009 material records releases “FROM A DREAM”, the debut recording of MGT.

from the liner notes:

„Music is a miraculous generator of possibilities. It is a language that can reach into far corners of the globe to merge diverse musical backgrounds, personalities and nationalities. As in the case of MGT, lives begun in Austria, Kazakhstan and the United States converged in Australia and discovered a musical unity.

The classical backgrounds of the three of us, plus our compositional and contemporary improvisation skills were a perfect blend from the outset. The title piece, "From a Dream", literally came to me in a dream. It has come to have another meaning, because for all concerned, this is truly a 'dream group'.
Ralph Towner

"team artistry of the highest order", the West Australian

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tour dates:

02.03.2009: Vienna (A), Konzerthaus
03.03.2009: Linz (A), Posthof
04.03.2009: Graz (A), Stefaniensaal (Grazer Congress)
05.03.2009: Salzburg (A), Oval
06.03.2009: Murnau (D), Kultur- und Tagungszentrum
07.03.2009: Elmau (D), Schloss Elmau
12.03.2009: Basel (CH), off beat festival
13.03.2009: Chioggia (I), Veneto Jazz
29.10.2009: Luxembourg (L), Philharmonie
30.10.2009: Cologne (D), Philharmonie
31.10.2009: Essen (D), Philharmonie
05.11.2009: Ravensburg (D), Trans4JAZZ-Festival
07.11.2009: Darmstadt (D), Centralstation

more dates to follow...

Vienna, November 2008

Ralph Towner – *"Ralph Towner is a guitarist's dream, one of the most brilliant lights in the fingerstyle universe."* *Guitar Player Magazine*

With a distinguished career that stretches back more than 30 years, Ralph Towner is a recording artist for the legendary jazz label ECM and an internationally acclaimed 12 string and classical guitarist. Best known as the lead composer, guitarist, and keyboardist for the acoustic jazz ensemble "Oregon", Towner has also had a rich and varied solo career that has seen fruitful and memorable musical collaboration with such great modern musicians as Gary Burton, John Abercrombie, Egberto Gismonti, Larry Coryell, Keith Jarrett, Jan Garbarek, and Gary Peacock. With reference to the great Spanish father of modern classical guitar, Towner is justifiably known as 'the Segovia of our time'. He was even honoured by Apollo astronauts who carried his music on cassette to the moon, officially naming moon craters after two of his compositions, 'Icarus' and 'Ghost Beads'.

"Towner is one of the few players who can balance a flawless technique with a feeling and spirit that touches the listener on many levels." *Crusader News*

Wolfgang Muthspiel – *"Muthspiel combines a flawless technique honed by classical training with a restless musical imagination as likely to derive inspiration from Bach as from the blues or the Beatles."* *London Times*

European Jazzprize winner for 2003, Wolfgang Muthspiel is one of the most exciting artists on the jazz and classical scene today. An internationally acclaimed guitarist/composer, Muthspiel commands attention worldwide as an artist of deep integrity, intelligence and daring musicality. He takes solo performances to a new level, incorporating sophisticated electronic loops, samples and other sound sources with his instruments. His on stage improvisations are said to be "miracles of intensity."

"Muthspiel's tricky compositions have an unstoppable groove over which he unveils a solo of Schwarzenegger proportions...These tunes go places, lots of them, and each is more interesting than the last." *The Village Voice*

Slava Grigoryan – *"A guitar player of uncommon originality and authority. Musicality, expressivity and daring are...a singular talent."* *The New York Times*

Slava Grigoryan is known to Australian audiences as an extraordinary classical guitarist. His performances in Australia include solo, duos and album releases with his brother Leonard, concertos with chamber & symphony orchestras. Slava is also a member of Saffire (The Australian Guitar Quartet). He has, and continues to tour internationally across Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and of course his home continent of Australia.

"Grigoryan's genius is to transform the guitar into a singing voice ...we are taken to the heart of the music." *The Age*

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