

**TREVOR WATTS
DRUM ORCHESTRA
BURUNDI MONDAY**



**TREVOR WATTS DRUM ORCHESTRA:
BURUNDI MONDAY
(FMRC198-0206)**

Peter Knight (violin),
Mmadi Kamara and Nana Tsiboe
(African percussion),
Ernest Mothle (bass),
Liam Genockey (drum),
Trevor Watts (saxophone)

This CD represents in some ways a 'first', marking as this recording does a previously unreleased line-up, the Trevor Watts Drum Orchestra of the early 1980s.

This was a crucial turning point in Trevor's evolving career, following a succession of Amalgam line-ups in which this alto saxophonist, with an already deserved international reputation for contributions to the evolution of free jazz and improvised music outside the American diaspora, was evolving a complex, polyrhythmically-driven approach to spontaneously generating new ideas capable of sustaining ongoing developing structures.

This development had been made possible by virtue of the musical company Trevor Watts had found, as they were the most conducive to the forward edge of his thinking. Drummer Liam Genockey's background was in Irish folk rock; Nana Tsiboe and Mamadi Kamara are supreme Masters in West African drumming; bassist Ernest Mothle's experience that of South African township Kwela music; Peter Knight's that of the famous folk group Steeleye Span.

We can hear how Trevor's overarching intuition of inherent possibilities acts as a crucial centripetal catalyst, capable of holding down a solid, grounded centre. Always 'hands on' and applying an intuitive grasp to the creative possibilities afforded by having the kinds of background inputs plus personal chemistry capable of being intermeshed, Trevor has used this experience as the propulsive principle underpinning however it has been applied since, e.g. in the more formal Moire Music, Moire Drum, the more recent Celebration Orchestra and duo with the remarkable percussionist Jamie Harris.

The Trevor Watts Drum Orchestra was both seedbed and powerhouse behind everything else. It still sounds as contemporary as on the dates when it was conceived. That musical creativity, for Trevor Watts, if it is to be worth anything beyond expression, responsibility and confirming our common human identity, is a joyful, playful, uplifting experience, is amply demonstrated in the two tracks making up this CD, taken from live performances given in 1983, and the evident audience delight. And yours, too.

John Wickes, 2006

- 1. Burundi Monday 34:21
- 2. Double Up 15:14
- Total Time 49:55

Recorded Live at the 100 Club in 1983
Produced for FMR by Trevor Taylor
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