

Rudresh Mahanthappa

Bird Calls

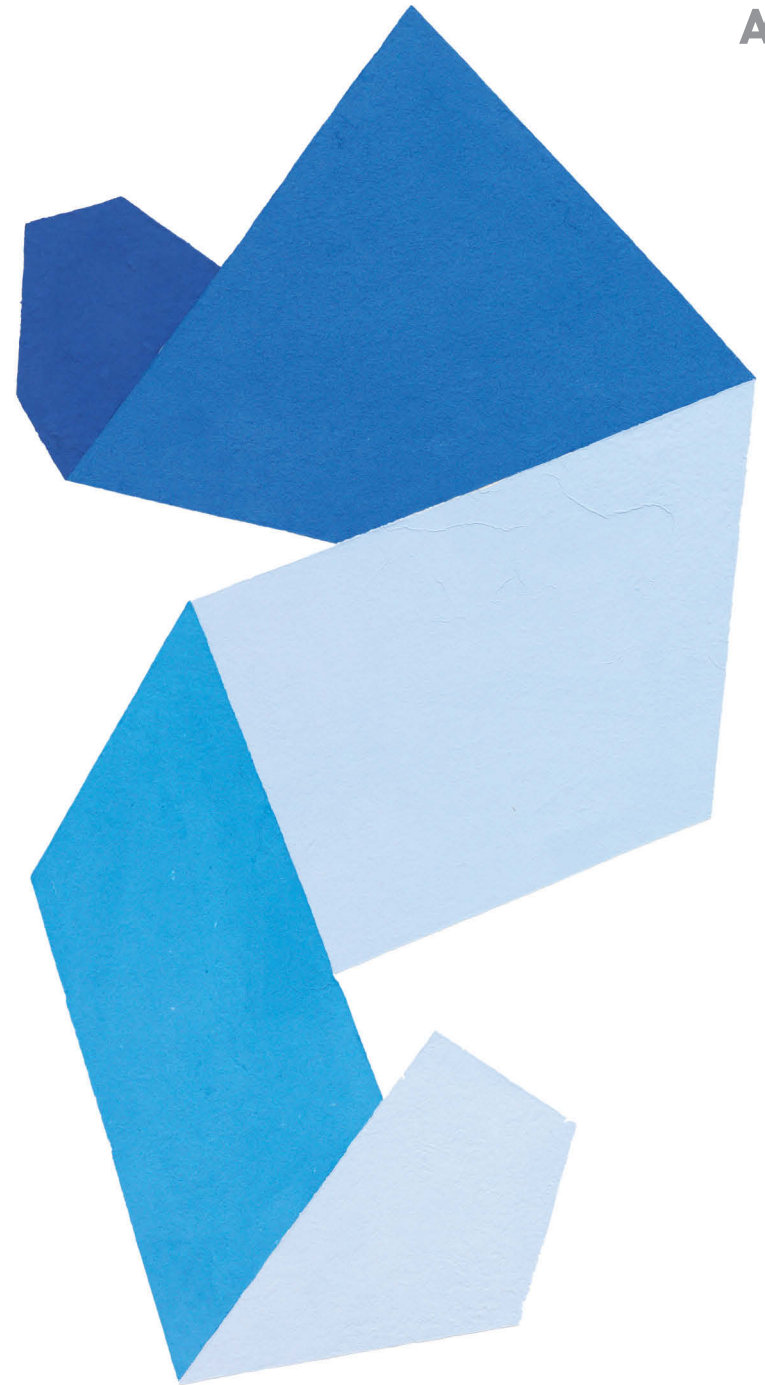
Adam O'Farrill

Matt Mitchell

François Moutin

Rudy Royston

ACT



Rudresh Mahanthappa

Bird Calls

ACT 9581-2

- 01 Bird Calls #1
- 02 On The DL
- 03 Bird Calls #2
- 04 Chillin'
- 05 Bird Calls #3
- 06 Talin Is Thinking
- 07 Both Hands
- 08 Bird Calls #4
- 09 Gopuram
- 10 Maybe Later
- 11 Bird Calls #5
- 12 Sure Why Not?
- 13 Man, Thanks For Coming

Rudresh Mahanthappa / alto saxophone
Adam O'Farrill / trumpet
Matt Mitchell / piano
François Moutin / acoustic bass
Rudy Royston / drums

Music composed and produced by Rudresh K. Mahanthappa

Cover art by Katja Strunz: "Pulb Painting", 2014 / ACT Art Collection

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THE ACT COMPANY

I was blessed to first hear Charlie Parker's music when I was 12 years old. The album was "Archetypes". Soon after, I picked up "Bird: Master Takes On Savoy" and my world was forever changed. His sheer virtuosity and innovative vocabulary were obviously astounding but what moved and continues to inspire me is the joy, humor and beauty that he portrays, evokes and instills. It was Charlie Parker (Bird) who truly embedded the spark for me to make a life in music. I have never looked back since.

While jazz has continued to evolve as a global art, it is of utmost importance to examine its gravitational sources and forces. While Bird's music has been performed and recorded countless times, it is a higher order of magnitude to absorb his work and give new shape and meaning to his gifts. That is to say that imitating Parker is of no consequence to forwarding this form, but developing new perspectives upon tradition is the substance of contemporary expression. I firmly believe that Bird would have wanted his legacy to resonate in this fashion.

There are no Charlie Parker tunes on this album, but each track is directly based on a Parker composition or solo. Historically, it has always been "easy" to state that Bird's work left an indelible and influential mark on modern music, but to prove that fact has been an exciting endeavor. When removed from its context, much of what Parker played or wrote is as modern as any current work in western music be it jazz, classical, rock or pop. It has also been an immense pleasure for me to revisit my core roots that predate my concentration on bridging jazz and non-western music.

This album is not a tribute to Charlie Parker. It is a blissful devotion to a man who made so much possible. "Bird Calls" on all of us to embrace the beauty of the world as it exists here and now.

Rudresh K. Mahanthappa

Music composed & produced by Rudresh K. Mahanthappa (Mahanthappa Music - BMI / Edition ACT Publishing).

Recorded August 4 & 5, 2014, mixed August 24 & 25, 2014 and mastered September 3, 2014 by Mike Marciano at Systems Two, Brooklyn (NYC)

rudreshm.com / facebook.com/rudreshm / twitter.com/rudreshm

- 01 Bird Calls #1 2:50
- 02 On The DL (based on "Donna Lee") 8:01
- 03 Bird Calls #2 1:09
- 04 Chillin' (based on "Relaxin' At The Camarillo") 8:03
- 05 Bird Calls #3 2:14
- 06 Talin Is Thinking (based on "Parker's Mood") 6:53
- 07 Both Hands (based on "Dexterity") 4:47
- 08 Bird Calls #4 2:12
- 09 Gopuram (based on "Steeplechase") 7:37
- 10 Maybe Later (based on "Now's The Time") 7:02
- 11 Bird Calls #5 1:39
- 12 Sure Why Not? (based on "Confirmation And Barbados") 7:49
- 13 Man, Thanks For Coming (based on "Anthropology") 1:38

Rudresh Mahanthappa would like to thank:

Adam, Matt, François and Rudy for fully understanding the thrust of this project and taking this music to places I had never imagined. The Marcianos for their love and care in making this art form ring so beautifully. All the folks at ACT for their immense belief and trust in my work. Willard Jenkins and John Zorn for presenting early versions of this experiment (This project had been in the back of my mind for quite some time and they helped bring it to life). George Wein for believing in the future of jazz and supporting the debut of "Bird Calls". Danny Melnick, Tracy Reid, Steve Lehman, Rich Brown, Dan Weiss, Rez Abbasi, Aparna & Ranee Ramaswamy, Mark Dresser, Gene Lake, Seth Rosner, Yulun Wang, Arturo O'Farrill, Jimmy & Dena Katz, Bill Nikkel and John Lynch for being the best compatriots and friends of whom I could ever hope. Michael Cuscuna for his help with the EPK. My family (Mahanthappas, Bakris and Tallands) for their unending enthusiasm and positive energy. My wife Pooja Bakri for her endless encouragement and love in thick and thin. Without her, life would be meaningless. My son Talin for being the overwhelming eternal wellspring of joy, wonder and inspiration in my life. He is the greatest masterpiece I could ever help create and I wholeheartedly dedicate this album to him.

Booking:

Worldwide except Europe: J. Chriss & Co., Joel Chriss, JChriss@aol.com

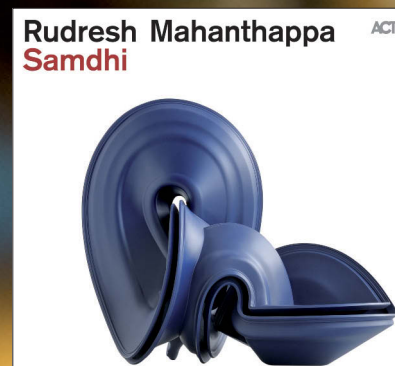
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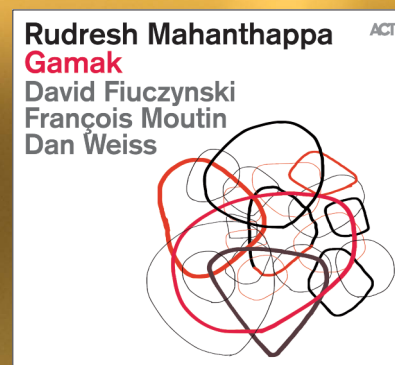
Rudresh Mahanthappa uses Vandoren reeds and mouthpieces exclusively and is a Yamaha performing artist

Cover art by courtesy of Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, photo: Jens Ziehe
Artist photo by Jimmy Katz



Samdhi

ACT 9513-2



Gamak

ACT 9537-2