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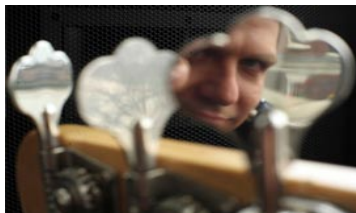
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**RB Funkestra's Stefan Redtenbacher**



**You've played at the 606 club a few times before, why do you like the venue?**

We actually love the venue. We played our first gig there in June 2006 and have been playing there regularly ever since. Friday nights suits us down to the ground as the crowd is lively, up for it, ready to forget their working weeks and start their weekend with a party.

The venue has also been a fertile creative ground to develop our sound and style. Big thanks have to go to Steve Rubie, who has been running the club successfully for 35 years, for making us part of it. It's great to feel connected to all the other fantastic jazz musicians in the London scene.

**Give us the Friday line up from the RB Funkestra family.**

We are going to be a 9-piece featuring powerful and soulful singer Katie Hector for a few tunes. The rhythm section is myself on bass, Mike Sturgis on drums, Eran Kendler on guitar and Simon Colam on keys.

The horn section (I nicknamed them 'The Jericho Horns') are under the leadership of Incognito trumpet player Sid Gauld and features some of finest horn players the London jazz junk scene has to offer: Simon Finch on trumpet, Paul Booth on tenor saxophone, Trevor Mires on trombone and Simon Allen on baritone saxophone.

**We recently asked cream bassist Jack Bruce what was the secret to playing bass. He said the secret to the electric bass guitar was plugging it in. Does that chime with you and what do you enjoy about playing bass?**

Ha, that's a funny response... I recently had the pleasure of playing second guitar alongside him and I had a blast. I was literally blown away by his playing as he must have the loudest bass signal on stage I've ever experienced. Yes, plugging in an amp that loud reveals the secret aptly!

I might add to plugging it in that creating something everyone from the musicians in the band to the entire audience enjoys must be my ultimate goal as a bassist, writer and bandleader. I just love hitting the pocket with the band and having the audience come along on the ride.

**There's a lot going on at this festival including a portrait of Jaco Pastorius at Ronnie Scott's. You've mentioned him as someone you admire, what was it about him that most impressed you?**

Jaco was a life force, a fearless master musician, a trendsetter and a virtuoso. This is what the arranger Charles Brent had to say about him and I wholeheartedly agree: "Write it, orchestrate it and perform it to the highest level... what is there but heaven after that?" I think Jaco has showcased this to the highest degree.



The range of emotions he was capable of expressing as a player and writer is nothing short of amazing. The sensibilities of Three Views Of A Secret and the firestorm he created on tunes like Punk Jazz and Port Of Entry really lets you through the ringer. He also brought a stage show and persona to jazz fusion that was a welcoming addition to the wonderful and by now legendary Weather Report.

On one of our records (Hausmusik) I wrote a tune called WRBD (W Rockin' Big Daddy) which honours the radio station Jaco listened to. There he would have heard tunes like The Chicken or Funky Broadway for the first time, tunes that he enjoyed playing throughout his career which was, as we all know, way too short.

**Give us the low down on upcoming album The Cooker. When's it out and what's on it?**

We are in the final mixing stages now and hopefully will be able to offer it up in December. The album has the regular Funkestra line up with a five piece horn section and features a whole bunch of funky guests like Lenny Pickett on tenor, Eric Krazno on guitar, Alexander Reffgen on tubax (!), Michael B. Nelson and the Hornheads from Minneapolis, and many of the horn players from the London scene that work with us regularly.

The music is funkalicious with a live feel rather than a studio production angle. As a writer this is my most mature work to date, but that sounds way too grown up for me. I hope you people will find out for yourselves and stick your own labels on it :-)

**What do you find attractive about funk music?**

Funk is all about the rhythm to me and I think that although music as a whole is a universal language, rhythm is especially so. Rhythm is something everybody can feel and enjoy. It creates a solid platform on which all sorts of strange and wonderful things are being generated and accepted by the audience, even if they don't think of themselves as jazz lovers!

**What can we expect at the London Jazz Festival gig?**

We're going to put on a great show with lots of variety throughout the set, expanding and contracting the line up, whilst having lots of fun!

*606 Club, Nov 11, 9.30pm, £12*

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