

Presseinfo

Efrat Alony: A Kit For Mending Thoughts

VÖ 9. November 2012

enja_Yellowbird/Soulfood

enja 9719

Efrat Alony vocals, keys, electronics

Oliver Leicht clarinet, electronics

Frank Wingold guitar

1. Shir 2. We Sail Away 3. Happy 4. Ani E. 5. I Had A King

6. Another Day Is Done 7. Introduction to

8. If I Should Lose You 9. Lonely Woman 10. Raise

11. O Do Not Love Too Long 12. Afterword

Vertriebe Österreich: Soulfood / Schweiz: Musikvertrieb

„Opposites and contrasts inspire me - they seem to intensify feelings and moods“ Efrat Alony

In motion

It is almost impossible to label Efrat Alony, a singer, songwriter, composer and bandleader under any one category: "Alony's music isn't quite jazz but something new and cutting edge – folk? Jazz? Electronica? avant-garde-Pop? This constant dance on the tightrope makes her shine and stand out from the mass of jazz singers. "I love challenges," she says, "they help me detect my boundaries. Our boundaries are not rigid- they're movable." As a musician there is no such thing as standstill. In her new project Alony explores the very depths of her voice, with additional electronic-sound-design as well as playing keyboards herself. With her fellow musicians **Oliver Leicht** and **Frank Wingold** on clarinet and guitar new experimental dimensions disclose.

Enja Records HW/Yellowbird Records

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"Untamable. The Israeli singer Efrat Alony bewilders with her voice, beauty and intellect. (...) Her timbre seduces us - to unstintingly listen." (Tom R. Schulz, Die Zeit 2006)

Efrat Alony's music is as diverse as her biography, which took her through various countries, the parting from her home and the return- through the use of her mother tongue, Hebrew, in her music. Born in Haifa, Israel, in 1975, as a daughter of Jewish Iraqi new comers- Efrat Alony studied composition, arranging, jazz singing and classical singing in Israel. Her Studies later took her to "Berklee collage of music" in Boston and later on to Berlin where she completed her studies at the "Hans Eisler collage of music". since 2009 Efrat Alony is a Professor for Jazz Singing at the HKB College of the arts in Bern, Switzerland.

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A Kit For Mending Thoughts

With her new album **"A Kit For Mending Thoughts"**, a co-production with the Berlin-brandenburg Radio, Efrat Alony re-enters exciting territories- she manages to re-invent the wheel in her interpretation of familiar songs- as well as presenting gripping performances to fascinating, at times challenging original compositions. The listener is compelled to follow her, her winding paths, through a very unique musical maze.

"Efrat Alony loves the freedom of jazz which allows her to pick and taste from virtually everything..." (Johannes Kaiser, Norddeutscher Rundfunk- NDR-Kultur 2009)

"Combining components from Jazz, rock, electronics and pop- Oliver and Frank are both masters of sounds and colours- ranging from pure acoustic sounds to fantasy-electro-soundscapes. No matter how complex- it always appears

so effortless" says Efrat. Clarinetist Oliver Leicht praises: "A guitarist, who sings with his guitar and a singer who sounds like an instrument- what am I saying- like thousand instruments- what could one wish for more? "

This trio, its popular art-songs and imaginary folksongs, paints a fascinating mosaic, reflecting on a wide range of emotions, creating a "cinema for the ear", diving into the endless depth of improvisation. Guided with the curiosity for the unorthodox and the unknown, as well as a great subtlety and finesse, with the serenity - to question - and the repose - to try and answer, this trio bewitches the listener.

Doug Ramsey (ArtsJournal) has found perhaps the most beautiful way to describe it: „I'm not sure that there is a category for what Alony does. *I'm not sure that there should be. Call it music.*"

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The Listening Manual

"Music should be a special event- which rises above normal day-to-day-life experience" says Alony."... it should be a safe haven, where you could hear yourself think, let yourself explore unknown territories , but from which you could always go back home, to familiar sceneries." On the cover Alony presents a "listening manual"- Tips and ideas of how to help recalibrate ones sensibility a bit, to fully appreciate and enjoy the music. To be able to fall into this new sound-world and enjoy its freedom and fantasy.

Oliver Leicht

...has been working for more than 20 years as a freelance musician in Cologne, Germany and the world. He has played and recorded with: Peter Herbolzheimer's Rhythm Combination & Brass, [re:jazz], Bob Brookmeyer's New Art Orchestra. the radio big- Bands of NDR, WDR and HR and RIAS. Since 2005 he is a member of HR Big Band.

Frank Wingold

...lives in Cologne and is part of various local bands. He is professor for jazz guitar at the University for Applied Sciences Osnabrück/Germany and teacher for jazz guitar at the Prins Claus Conservatoire Groningen/Netherlands. He is the leader of the projects „Agog“ and „Clairvoyance“ as well as band member of „Underkarl“

Efrat Alony

Since the break-through with the release of her 3rd album "unarmed and Dazed" on Enja records, the Israeli singer and composer Efrat Alony has been fascinating the European audience and press. Expressive and urgent in her compositions, vulnerable -

almost thin-skinned in her prose, and unmistakably unique in her agile, warm sound and style of singing. On the constant search for new paths- Efrat was crowned "one of the most important voices in the German jazz scene" (Ulf Drechsel, Kulturadio, Berlin Brandenburg) and her band Alony to "one of the most outstanding ensemble of the current international singer-songwriter scene" (Norbert Krampf, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

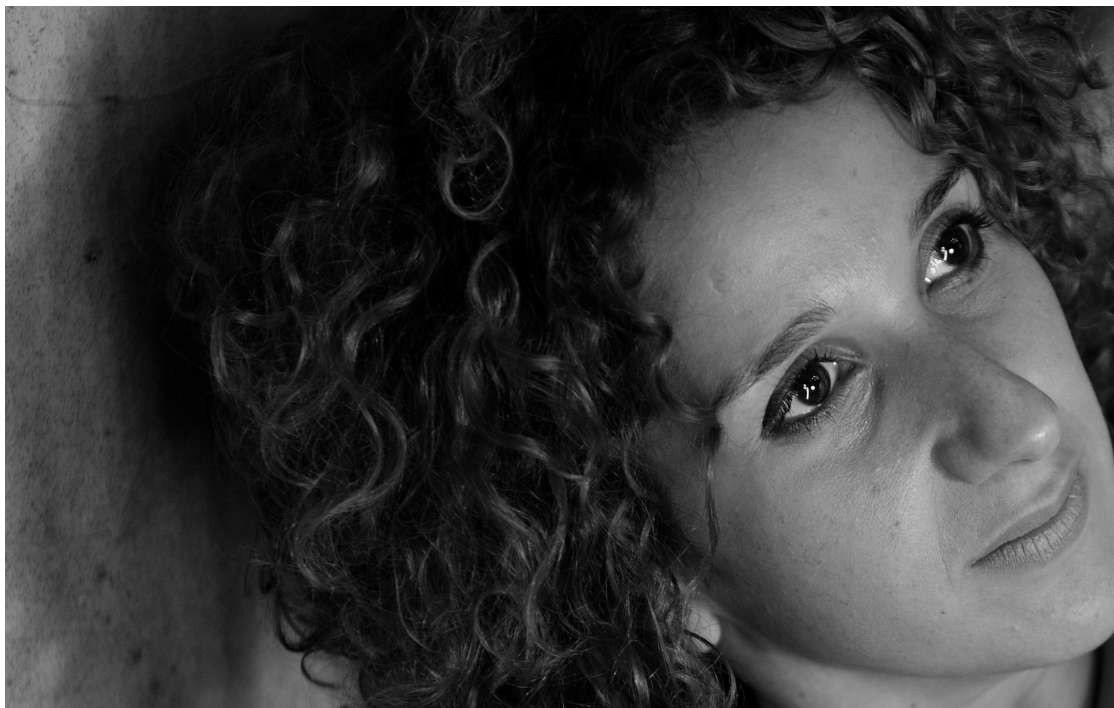
Born in Haifa, Israel, in 1975, as a daughter of Jewish Iraqi new comers, singer Efrat Alony studied composition, arranging, jazz singing and classical singing in Israel, Germany and the U.S. Efrat was a featured as a soloist with many big bands such as the Sunday Night Orchestra (CD "Overcast", 2008), the Zurich Jazz Orchestra, the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), the Radio Big Band Frankfurt, the Zurich Jazz Orchestra as well as the Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra (CD „Songs for love lost“, 2011)

Efrat has worked as a musical director and vocal coach for various theatre productions, such with the renown American director Robert Wilson. In 2006 she was awarded the Jazz Performance Prize of the Karl Hofer Society and the Jazz Institute Berlin. in 2008 and in 2010 she received the City of Berlin Jazz Award. In 2009 Alony received the „Nürnberg Nachrichten International Jazz award“ and in 2010 she was nominated for the BMW world Jazz award.

After the release of "Dismantling Dreams" (Enja 2009, a co-production with the Bavarian radio), „A kit for mending thoughts“ is Efrat Alony's 5th album, released under her own name.

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Diskografie Efrat Alony as a Leader

2012 **A Kit For Mending Thoughts** enja_Yellowbird enja 9719

2009 **Dismantling Dreams** ENJA RECORDS ENJ 9523 2

2006 **Unarmed And Dazed** ENJA RECORDS ENJ 9491 2

2005 **Unravelling Intuition** INT 3384 2

2002 **Merry-Go-Round** ZYX VILCD 1018-2

Booking

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Links

www.alony.de

www.myspace.com/alonymusic

www.jazzrecords.com/enja

Reviews:

"Bob Brookmeyer called my attention to this Israeli singer who has had success in Germany's avant circles. In Brookmeyer's words, "She is very gifted and very motivated-into electronics, arranging, always composing her own stuff. Been in Berlin for 15 years." He thinks she deserves wider exposure. After spending a couple of hours of a long motor trip with her CD, I agree.

Alony's voice, round and spacious, sounds classically trained. It is in the mezzo range, although she sometimes takes it higher, maintaining fullness and pitch unless she is purposely bending notes, which she occasionally does to great effect. The songs on Alony are not standards; she wrote most of the lyrics and music, with contributions from pianist Mark Reinke and one piece from the Israeli songwriter-singer Etti Ankri. In addition, Alony set to music William Butler Yeats' bittersweet poem, "To a Child Dancing in the Wind." Reinke and drummer Christian Thomé are the primary accompanists. They also provide electronic effects. A string quartet contributes backing and atmospherics. Alony now and then overdubs voices in unison or counterpoint. There's a lot going on, but it's all integrated, allowing concentration on the music as a whole. At their best, Alony's lyrics achieve a haiku-like sensibility that distinguishes superior art songs: „Recollecting, fading shadows of joy, I slowly unlock the shackles of thought, my safeguard, freeing feelings I lost, bewitchment, delight, sweet longing“I'm not sure that there is a category for what Alony does. I'm not sure that there should be. Call it music."

(Doug Ramsey, ArtsJournal, Oktober 2009)

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"CD Discoveries of this week- Alony- "Dismantling dreams"- ...Last week Bob Brookmeyer sent along a copy of Efrat Alony's Dismantling Dreams. Alony is an Israeli singer who resides in Germany. Her voice is a lusty cross between Joni Mitchell's folk wisdom and Amy Winehouse's rolling purr. Alony's voice is highly trained, but what's most fascinating is her original music and lyrics. The style isn't quite jazz but something new and cutting edge, sort of an atonal folk-electronica mash. While I confess you may need to recalibrate your sensibility a bit to fully appreciate what Alony is doing, the journey is well worth it. If you appreciate avant-garde music, her sound grows on you fast"

(Marc Meyers, Jazzwax, Oktober 2009)

"....The music hits you with full force. Efrat Alony, with her dazzling versatile singing, enriches scat singing with sighs and lamentations and shows that Hebrew can both comfort and glow, like a candle..."

(Josef Engels, Berliner Morgenpost)

"...With her warm alto voice which reaches the highest spheres, Efrat Alony sings her compositions, which are complex and reminiscent of chamber music. With her fiery rhythm section the songs achieve an extraordinary dynamic and intensity. Modestly she presents her songs only to fill the room with versatile theme variations, scat singing, incredible expressiveness and remarkable volume..."

(Alfred Balz, Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz)

"Singer Efrat Alony has created her own brand of Israeli jazz...There can't be many more improbable jazz situations

than an Israeli jazz vocalist singing Hebrew in Germany. It requires a lot of guts and self-confidence to base an incipient career on material that is far from instantly recognizable and sung in a language few speak- particularly in her country of residence. But Efrat Alony says that for her, playing safe simply was never an option."

(Barry Davies, Jerusalem Post)

"... The lightness with which her full and warm voice floats through the octaves, makes one forget how difficult some of the lines are ... the cello is her favorite instrument. Its sound is beautiful, round, dark massive and full of depths" - descriptions that match Alony's style as well"

(Oliver Hafke-Ahmad, Berliner Morgenpost)

"...Efrat Alony is an unusual singer... This unique mix of drawn out melody lines, Hebrew text, classical voice technique and improvisational passion... Her music lives of contrasts. It seems light, almost inconspicuous, and is yet full of harmonic and compositional complexities"

(Josef Engels, Die Welt)

Tourdates Efrat Alony/Oliver Leicht/Frank Wingold

29.11.2012 Berlin-Grüner Salon | 30.11.2012 Erfurt-Jazzclub

11.12.2012 Nürnberg-DB Museum | 2.12.2012 Rüsselsheim-

Jazzfabrik | 3.12.2012 Köln-Stadtgarten | 26.2.2013

München-Unterfahrt tbc | 1.3.2013 Wien- Porgy & Bess |

24.4.2013 Schloß Elmau tbc

additional tourdates can be found on www.alony.de

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