

Eric
Hofbauer



and



The

Infrared



Band



Booking Contact: Elizabeth Bouchard
54 Hawthorne Street / Somerville, MA 02144 USA
(617) 519-6394 / booking@erichofbauer.com

erichofbauer.com

Eric Hofbauer and The Infrared Band



erichofbauer.com

The Infrared Band is Boston-based guitarist/composer Eric Hofbauer's working quartet and the primary outlet for his innovative original compositions. As indicated by its name, and the tongue-twisting title of its 2008 debut, *Myth Understanding* (Creative Nation Music), the inspiration for the band's whimsical yet sophisticated music is Hofbauer's overlapping interest in wordplay, mythology and puzzles.

"Eric has more to offer than his sense of humor," writes music journalist Ed Hazell in the *Myth Understanding* liner notes. "There's always a strong concept behind any of his musical endeavors, whether it's a composition or a recording. On this album, the compositions fall into three general categories: compositions based on myths, compositions derived from sung phrases, and what Eric calls (with the inevitable pun) 'Puzzle Pieces.'"

Hazell continues, "When we play around with something, we explore it and perhaps discover something new. When musicians of this caliber explore their innermost selves, using compositions as the starting point and improvisation as the methodology, you can bet profound things are discovered—always in a playful spirit, of course."

"If there's a single overarching ethos to the band it would be 'tell your story,'" Hofbauer explains. "All my compositions have a back story or theme and I encourage each player to add their own take on those stories and to play from personal experience. There's no role playing. I compose to each of their strengths, featuring everyone and challenging their limits."

Critics have called the band "a lithe, smart quartet" (Nathan Turk, *Signal To Noise*), "a bright showcase for Hofbauer's multi-layered music" (Owen McNally, *Hartford Courant*) and "a band with a good sense of humor as well as great musical intelligence" (Richard Kamins, *The Middletown Eye*).

AllAboutJazz.com's Troy Collins adds, "Hofbauer brings a wealth of historical antecedents to his playfully inventive compositions. A refreshingly original voice, Hofbauer reveals an affable yet mischievous sensibility in his writing and improvising. Aided by the superlative interpretive abilities of his sidemen, Eric Hofbauer and The Infrared Band make *Myth Understanding* a sterling debut."

standing

myth

Eric Hofbauer and The Infrared Band

Myth Understanding

Creative Nation Music CNM 011

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Eric Hofbauer, guitar
Kelly Roberge, tenor saxophone
Michael Montgomery, bass
Miki Matsuki, drums

...[Hofbauer's] edgy, outsider aesthetic informs this intriguingly original music. Utilizing spiky lines, odd harmonies and dissonant chord clusters (Joe Morris meets "Blood" Ulmer) while also making striking use of space and putting a premium on swing and blues, Hofbauer stakes out fresh territory on tunes like "Jac Mac Talkin," "A Drunk Monk" and "The Chump Killer."

—**Bill Milkowski, JazzTimes**

Although the precedents for tenor sax-guitar-bass-drums quartets are many, they still manage to make something fresh out of it, and in a manner so easy that it might leave listeners wondering why so few musicians seem to manage it...this is a group that seems to realize the tradition is no end in itself, but rather something that retains its validity only through periodic but ranging renewal.

—**Nic Jones, AllAboutJazz.com**

I've always had a weakness for records that combine conceptual hi-jinks with sensuous sounds—records that hit both head and body—records that are complete musical experiences. On *Myth Understanding*, Eric Hofbauer and his Infrared Band offer just that. This record is rewarding on every level.

—**Michael Coyle, Cadence**

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Eric Hofbauer and The Infrared Band

LEVEL

Creative Nation Music CNM 020

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Eric Hofbauer, guitar
Kelly Roberge, tenor saxophone
Sean Farias, bass
Miki Matsuki, drums

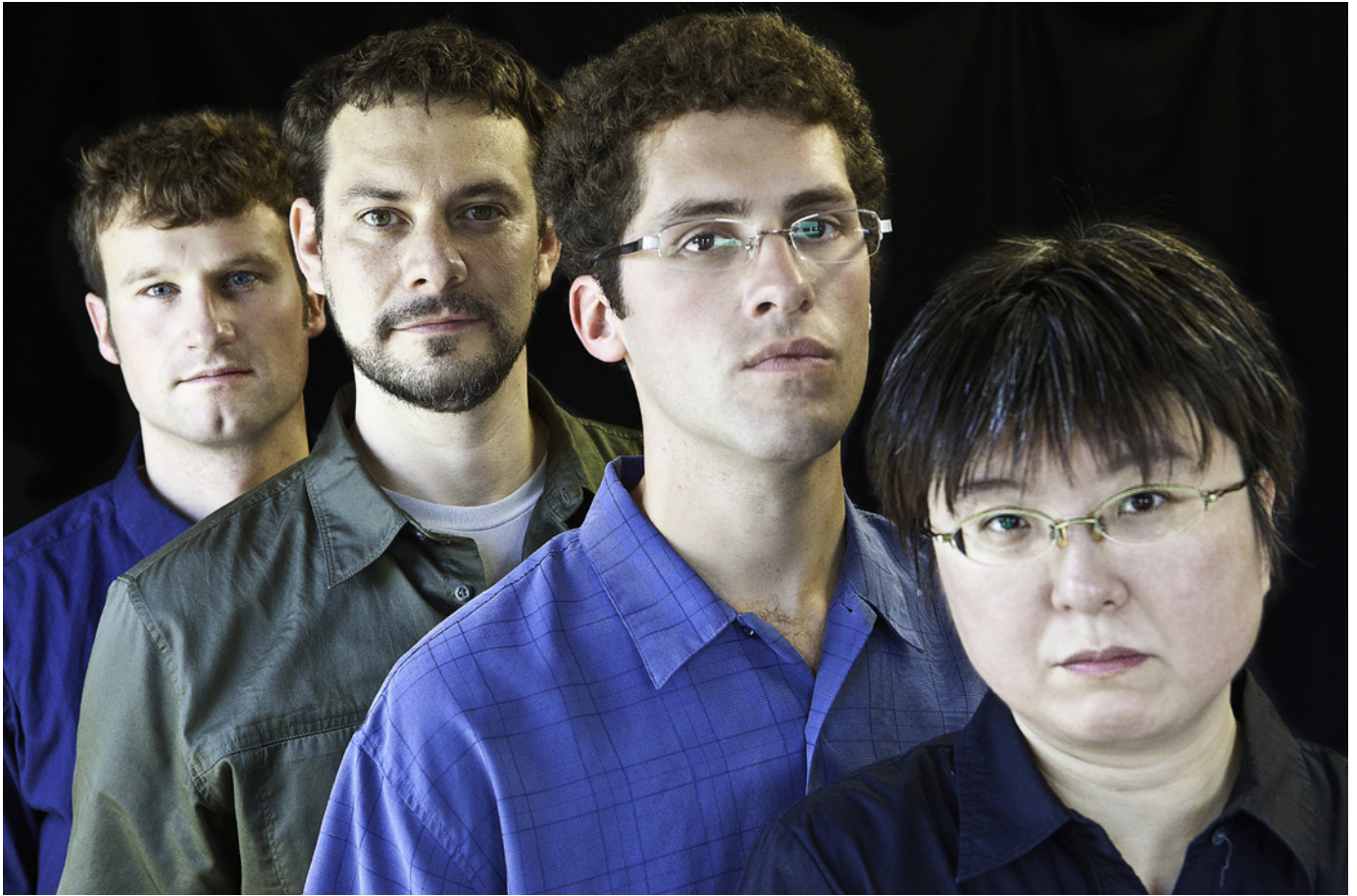
COMING SPRING 2011

Like its predecessor, 2008's *Myth Understanding*, The Infrared Band's second release also revels in wordplay (the title is a palindrome), but this time the primary inspiration behind the music is a thematic exploration of balance and duality (good vs. evil, conflict vs. resolution, etc.). The mixing and mastering of the record was funded in part by grant monies Hofbauer received as part of the prestigious Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship in Music Composition.

"The music on *LEVEL*, like most of my work, explores the human condition using sound to tell stories," Hofbauer explains. "Historian and writer Joseph Campbell believed the new myths of the 21st century would be written in music. *LEVEL* embraces that idea, and offers nine mythology-themed pieces about duality in the universe and in life—two sides trying to find balance."

Media Contact: Scott Menhinick / Improvised Communications
75 Pine Street, Unit 31 / Waltham, MA 02453 USA
(781) 373-5825 / scott@improvisedcommunications.com

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