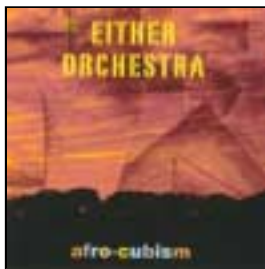




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## Afro-Cubism

Either/Orchestra | Accurate Records



**Track Listing:** Harvey's Entrance, Blue Attitude, Soul Song, Look to the Lion, Yezamed Yebaed, Don't Bother Me/No Me Molesta

**Personnel:** Tom Halter, trumpet; Colin Fisher, trumpet; Joel Yennior, trombone; Jeremy Udder, alto sax, flute; Russ Gershon, tenor sax; Charlie Kolhase, baritone sax; Gregory Burke, piano; Rick McLaughlin, bass; Harvey Wirht, drums, cymbals, cowbells; Vincente Lebron, congas, bongos, timbales

Saxophonist/Composer Russ Gershon, leader of the ten piece Either/Orchestra, had a problem: Too much music in the can fit on one CD. His solution: Two CDs, forty some odd minutes apiece and lower the price from the sixteen dollar range down to \$10.99 to better compete with the bargain-priced reissues offered up by the major labels.

*Afro-Cubism* is the first of the new pair of CDs to be released on Gershon's Accurate Records. This is a churning Latin stew tintured with the spice of Dizzy's Gillespie's Big Bands, flavored with a dollop of the intensity of Sam Rivers Rivbea All-Star Orchestra, and throw in a fistfull of Randy Weston's (Melba Liston arranged) large ensemble work from a few years back. A driving sound, a brash, hard-blowing crew--three brass, three reeds, in front of piano/bass/drums/congas.

*Afro-Cubism* has three Gershon originals, one Greg Burke (The E/O's new piano man)tune, a Gershon-arranged Latin/Ethiopian (more about Ethiopia later) number, and (I kid you not) a wild Latin jazz take on George Harrison's "Don't Bother Me" (off *Meet the Beatles?*), renamed here *No Me Molesta*. The Quiet Beatles one assumes, would love it.

Now, the Ethiopian connection: Gershon and Company's last CD, *More Beautiful Than Death* included "The Ethiopian Suite", a three part *tour de force* that they performed, *sans* charts, at Dizzy's in downtown San Diego last year--a swirling, three-part dark continent-inspired musical maelstrom that brought the house down.

Now the band is planning a concert series in the Boston area w

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the 2002-3 "Collaborations" series. Do not--do not, do not, do not--miss them. They are an electrifying (albiet accoustic) live band.

And E/O is scheduled to record an album of Ethiopian music with various collaborators for the French Buda label, for releas in January 2003.

The second collection of Either/Orchestra's too-much-music-for-one-CD set, *Neo-Modernism* will be released in March of 2003. If it's half as inspired as *Afro-Cubism* it's a must-have CD.

<http://either-orchestra.org/>

~ [Dan McClenaghan](#)

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