

Chamber America

Ensemble: Invocation

Bandleader: Rez Abbasi

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Rez Abbasi	Guitar
Rudresh Manhanthappa	Alto saxophone
Vijay Iyer	Piano
Johannes Weidenmueller	Bass
Dan Weiss	Drums

Title of Work: Suno Suno
Composer: Rez Abbasi
Date completed: October 2010
Work Length: 75 minutes

Work Description:

Invocation came together in 2008, as a vehicle for Rez Abbasi's continuing explorations of the cross-pollination between jazz and South Asian music. With two albums of original compositions, one of which was commissioned by Chamber Music America, *Invocation* has garnered high praise from fans and critics alike - including a spot in *DownBeat's* top albums of the last decade. The group's wide reaching vision and virtuosity comes from some of the most compelling players in jazz today; Rudresh Mahanthappa, Vijay Iyer, Johannes Weidenmueller, Dan Weiss and, of course, Rez Abbasi.

The work is primarily informed by Qawwali, a Pakistani song form sung by Sufi mystics for the sake of praising God. Qawwali's musical features are deceptive. While the subtle and trance-like melodic variations may seem repetitive, Qawwali possesses a unique driving force, a broad dynamic range and a group cohesiveness that creates a deep sense of groove that is unmatched. Abbasi has succeeded in incorporating all of these elements and more, into a creative hotbed for new musical composition and expression.

Recording:

Suno Suno (Enja Records)

Technical Requirements/Specs:

Drum set, piano, pa system, guitar and bass amps

General Information:

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