Épocanova

Latin Jazz

Susannah Flack & Roberto Manzin

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Épocanova is a fresh, groovy, modern band, taking elements of South American and Caribbean music and blending them to create an original, energetic new sound. The band is based around the collaboration between outstanding London Steel Pan player Susannah Flack and renowned Italian Saxophonist Roberto Manzin. Flack and Manzin are joined by a core of committed musicians, each internationally successful in their own right. Their set includes originals composed by the band as well as arrangements of Caribbean and Latin Standards, revised and up-dated. Owing to their positive energy and sense of cohesion Épocanova consistently receive a very warm and enthusiastic audience response.

Épocanova is a quintet, expanding to a 7 piece band according to the occasion.

Susannah Flack – Steel Pan, Voice,
Roberto Manzin – Saxes,
Roland Perrin – Piano (Dudu Pukwana, Osvaldo Chacon),
Rey Crespo – Bass (Rubén González, Omara Portuondo),
Michel Castellanos – Drums (Azucar Negra, Sur Caribe),

Oscar Martinez - Congas/Percussion (Omar Puente),
Filipe Monteiro - Guitar

Susannah Flack
Born in London of English and Brazilian origin, Susannah's musical training took place in a succession of London steel bands with whom she performed around the world. By the age of 22 she was band captain/ manager of Glissando Steel Orchestra (Est.1978), during which time she collaborated closely with

renowned Jazz steel pannist and steel band arranger Rudy Smith.

Susannah made her Jazz debut with the Russ Henderson Trio at London's 606 Club in 2008 and has since been making waves on the London Jazz scene, experimenting with her Steel Pan sound in a range of contexts. She is particularly interested in exploring the common roots of the different branches of Afro-American, Latin and Caribbean musical traditions and has collaborated on several projects from Jazz to Parang, appearing with Roberto Pla and his Latin Ensemble, as well as forming a central part of Gui Tavares' band Ritmo BR, playing Brazilian grooves from Funk and Samba to Forro and Chorinho.

In 2009 Susannah became one of the first musicians ever to be granted special permission to play in the House of Lords. She has featured in two documentaries and taken part in several performances broadcast live on the BBC World Service as part of BBC SuperPower Nation 2010. Susannah continues to develop her musical gift, contributing original tunes for Épocanova as well as stepping up to the microphone to add her voice to the blend of sounds.

"I have been a fan of Susannah's since the moment I first heard her, I just think that she is a very groovy pan player and I expect great things from her in the near future." (Rudy Smith)

"Susannah is a great musician and wonderful ambassador for pan." (Debi Gardner, British Association of Steelbands)

Roberto Manzin

Roberto's distinctive and personal Sax sound has led to over 50 recorded album appearances, many tours and TV shows, all while continuing to develop skills on Alto, Tenor and Soprano Saxes.

Roberto is a London based Saxes and Clarinet player and composer, born in Rome of Eastern European refugees who were also musicians. His musical life began in Milan where he studied Music and played with James Brown, Donna Summer, Manu Katche and many others. For a number of years, Roberto played in Tony Scott's Jazz Quintet – Scott being the legendary American Bebop Clarinet player who performed with the likes of Charlie Parker and Billie Holiday.

Roberto migrated to the more dynamic and evolving music environment of London in the mid '90's, wanting to sample its exciting intercultural richness. In London Roberto played in Antonio Forcione's band for three years and he appears on Forcione's album "Ghetto Paradise" featuring Trilok Gurtu, and Kai Eckhardt, John McLaughlin's rhythmic section. He performed and recorded with, amongst others, Jim Mullen, Jonathan Gee, Roberto Pla, Roland Perrin, Jason Rebello, Ska Cubano, Jesus Cutiño. Since then, Roberto Manzin continues to appear in Jazz Festivals in Europe including Ascot, Hull and Vilnius Jazz Festivals as well as performing regularly in London at Ronnie Scott's Bar, The 606 Club, The Vortex and others.

"*An expressive player with an attractive sound, his improvisations reveal a skilful strategist, a melodist first and foremost, who gradually unfolds a solo and builds up to a compelling conclusion."* (Jazzwise)

***"Roberto Manzin, a powerful Italian Tenor Saxist currently wowing the UK."* (Jim Mullen)**