WOLFGANG MUTHSPIEL TRIO
DUNSTAN PLAYHOUSE ● 13 AUGUST 9.30PM
AUSTRIA ● AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Unparalleled Masters of Improvisation

Wolfgang Muthspiel, one of the world’s most prolifically recorded guitarists and multi instrumentalists, is also one of the greatest collaborators in ground breaking jazz. The Wolfgang Muthspiel Trio comprises the hippest rhythm section on the scene: Brian Blade on drums and Larry Grenadier on bass. Both have recorded with greats such as Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Herbie Hancock and Norah Jones. The trio’s live and recorded works boast an extraordinary blend of gentle power and subtle, casually shifting moments in which each musician drops a fresh dose of magic into an ever building wave of jazz cool. Come hear pure genius.

“The Austrian guitarist’s subtle, less-is-more playing is reminiscent of John Abercrombie… Blade is a poet of the drum set, and Grenadier a poised combination of solidity and unpredictability” – THE IRISH TIMES

FEATURING Brain Blade (USA) on Drums & Larry Grenadier (USA) on Bass

WOLFGANG MUTHSPIEL

Born in 1965, guitar player Wolfgang Muthspiel now lives in Vienna. He is considered to be one of the most influential guitarists of his generation. 30 CD’s with mainly his own compositions document his work as bandleader and co-leader. Being trained as a classical musician he approaches the acoustic guitar with the same ease as improvisation and jazz. His Mozart-loving father encouraged him to start with violin playing at age six. At the age 14, he switched to guitar and started to create his own music with his brother Christian. His interest for improvisation led to jazz. He moved to Boston, Massachusetts and attended the Berklee College of Music on a full scholarship in 1986 where Mick Goodrick introduced him to complex harmonic worlds. In 1988 he started a two year touring period with the Gary Burton Band and acquired an outstanding reputation in the jazz scene.

In the mid-nineties he arrived in the capital of Jazz, New York City, where he lived and worked until 2002. This city offered him a unique platform for pursuing different projects. Together with the singer Rebekka Bakken he explored the world of the singer/songwriter while with his brother he pursued their common electronic project Muthspiel/Muthspiel. At the same time he acted as a reliable and ingenious sideman for TrilokGurtu, Dhafer Youssef, YoussouN'Dour, Maria João, Dave Liebman, Peter Erskine, Paul Motian, Bob Berg, Gary Peacock, Don Alias, Larry Grenadier, John Patitucci, Dieter Ilg, the Vienna Art Orchestra and many others. After 16 years in the country of boundless possibilities he moved back home in 2002, settling down in Vienna, now being in demand as a virtuosic and creative co-leader and sideman in Europe.

In 2002 he founded the label “Material Records” where he publishes and produces his own recordings as well as albums of other artists. After having toured Europe with his new quartet (2008) and the duo-project with the drummer Brian Blade (2008) Wolfgang Muthspiel focusses on the trio “MGT” (Muthspiel – Grigoryan – Towner). In addition to his jazz projects, Muthspiel is active composing for contemporary classical ensembles like the Klangforum Wien or the Hugo Wolf Quartet. Most recently he received commissions from the Austrian Esterházy foundation (Haydn Year 2009). Furthermore Wolfgang Muthspiel is conducting the guitar class at the Conservatoire of Music in Basel, Switzerland. Among his current projects is the Duo ‘Friendly Travelers’ with drummer Brian Blade, the Wolfgang Muthspiel Trio, MGT “From a Dream” with Slava Grigoryan and Ralph Towner, the ‘Drumfree Trio’ (with Scott Colley and Mark Turner) as well as an ever-changing Solo Performance incorporating many different guitars and loops. Since 2009 the collaboration with Turkish pianist Aydin Esen has led to yet another project by the name of ‘dream cycle’ bringing together contemporary aesthetics of both the classical and the jazz world.
In 2012 he released his first recording as a singer entitled “Vienna Naked”. The continuation of this song project is a journey through the world called “Vienna.World” which will be released in 2015 as an album and a movie.

These activities did not go unnoticed by several committees: Among numerous smaller awards Wolfgang Muthspiel received the Hans Koller Prize for ‘Musician of the Year’ in 1997. In 2003 he was voted European Jazz Musician of the Year. Musicians Magazine ranked him among the Top Ten Jazz Guitarists of the World.

BRIAN BLADE
As a young boy, Blade grew up in a home in Shreveport, Louisiana in which he frequently heard Gospel music and soul music. In elementary school, his music appreciation classes furthered this musical upbringing, and at age nine he began playing the violin; he continued to do so until age thirteen, when he, inspired by his brother, Brady Blade, Jr., became a drummer.

During high school Brian began listening to the music of John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Thelonious Monk, Elvin Jones, and Joni Mitchell. By the age of eighteen, Brian moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola University. During this period, he was able to study and play with most of the master musicians living in New Orleans, such as; John Vidacovich, Ellis Marsalis, Steve Masakowski, Bill Huntington, Mike Pellera, John Mahoney, George French, Germaine Bazzle, David Lee, Jr., Alvin Red Tyler, Tony Dagradi and Harold Battiste. Blade made his first recorded appearances as a sideman with Kenny Garrett and Joshua Redman and continued to work in that capacity with other musicians.

In 1998, Brian Blade formed Brian Blade Fellowship with pianist Jon Cowherd. Also joining the group were saxophonists Myron Walden and Melvin Butler, guitarist Jeff Parker, pedal steel Guitarist Dave Easley, and bassist Chris Thomas. This group released their self-titled debut album before replacing Parker with guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel for 1999's Perceptual. Easley then departed before 2008's Season of Changes, which was released under the name Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band.

While continuing to work with the Fellowship Band, Blade has been a member of Wayne Shorter’s most recent quartet. He has continued working as a studio musician and has recorded with Joni Mitchell, Bill Frisell, Ellis Marsalis, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris, Bob Dylan, Dorothy Scott, Billy Childs, Chris Potter and David Binney. He has also played with Herbie Hancock and has been involved with guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel in the duo Friendly Travelers, who released their self-titled debut album in 2007. Recently, he has teamed up with Trixie Whitley (daughter of Chris Whitley), Daniel Lanois, and others in the band Black Dub.

In 2009, Blade released his first album as a singer-songwriter, Mama Rosa. The album features Daniel Lanois and many of his bandmates from the Fellowship Band.

LARRY GRENAUDIER
born into a musical family on February 6, 1966 in San Francisco California. By the time he was 16, Larry had a busy career playing with musicians that included Joe Henderson, Bobby Hutcherson, Eddie Henderson, Bruce Forman, Eddie Marshall, Vince Lateano, George Cables and Donald Bailey. Larry went on to study at Stanford University and graduated in 1989 with a degree in English Literature where he toured with Stan Getz.

After graduation, Larry moved to Boston to play with Gary Burton touring the world with his band that included Donny McCaslin, Wolfgang Muthspiel, and Marty Richards. After, Larry moved to New York and began musical associations with a wide variety of musicians. Some of these included musicians Larry had met during his time in Boston and included talents such as Joshua Redman, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Jorge Rossy, Mark Turner, and Chris Cheek.

In the early 1990's, Larry first met and played with pianist Brad Mehldau. Brad’s trio that included Larry and Jorge Rossy went on to become one of the major groups of the time. They toured constantly throughout the 1990's and recorded many influential records.

Also during this time Larry played in John Scofield’s band and with Pat Metheny with whom he spent a few years touring with the guitarist in a trio with drummer Bill Stewart. Other musicians Larry played with included Charles Lloyd, Billy Higgins, Michael Brecker, and Paul Motian.

Currently, Larry finds himself continuing many of these prior musical collaborations. He focuses much of his touring time playing with Brad Mehldau's trio, which, since 2004, has included drummer Jeff Ballard. He is also a part of the collaborative trio FLY which includes drummer Jeff Ballard and tenor saxophonist Mark Turner. Larry also tours and records with his wife, singer songwriter Rebecca Martin, with whom he has found a rare personal and musical kinship.

ARTIST LINKS
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