

Daryl Magazine.com

August 2008 Issue

Interview with Benny Rietveld

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Q: Tell us how you created an orchestra with such high caliber talent? What inspired you to approach the music on that scale?

A: I don't know what orchestra or music you are referring to, so I can't really answer this one yet.

Q: Tell us about your musical influences that led you to such a versatile music vocabulary?

A: The Beatles, Charles Mingus, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Santana, Abba, Yes, Sly & The Family Stone, Maxim Shostakovich, Igor Stravinsky. Frank Zappa, Nena, Nina Hagen, The Police, Led Zeppelin, Salif Keita, The B-52s, Ruben Blades, Herbie Hancock, Milton Nascimento, Weather Report, Mahavishnu Orchestra, James Brown, Elis Regina, Krzysztof Penderecki, Gwen Stefani, Los Muñequitos de Matanzas, Heino, to name a few.

Q: What are your thoughts about the mp3 impact on contemporary pieces?

A: I'm happy to have the format around, it's made life a lot easier and more fun.

Q: Having traveled the world did any cultural your experiences influence your composing?

A: Always. There's great music almost everywhere you go.

Q: Santana has such a strong spiritual compass, has the band as a whole changed the way you see the world?

A: Not really - I have been blessed to have a life that is almost devoid of any categories or boxes. Life has been a continuum for a long time for me, a vast playground of colors, sounds, people, genders, races, styles - all blending in wild and mysterious ways. I usually forget that there are a lot of people that see things in boxes, and so I guess that's one of my missions, is to dispel those myths.

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Q: We've read that you have done soundtrack work, how is that experience for you as an artist?

A: Another really cool experience, that shows me even more ways to think about music, and more ways to approach musical problems. Lots and lots of hard work also! But it's a passion, so you gladly do the work when that's the case.

Q: Do you feel that the bass as an instrument has taken on a different voice with cats like Stanley, Victor and of course yourself?

A: Well, of course, those guys definitely put a whole different light on the bass guitar as an instrument. But you definitely should not put me in the same category as those guys! I'm not doing half the things that those guys did and are doing!

Q: Finally what's next musically for you?

A: The release of my HD bass movie, for one. And get my band in NYC back together, hopefully tour around. Also, maybe another film score project. And get better, hopefully.