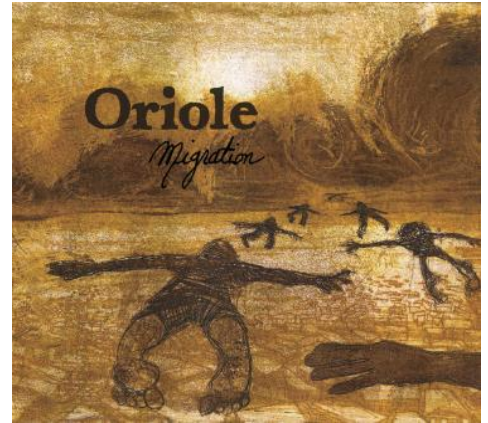


F-IRE Press Release 08

Oriole – Migration



“The soundtrack to a story of joy and longing born from an irresistible impulse to travel but never to arrive”

Migration is **Oriole's** second album, a sensory banquet of soaring melodies, colourful South American folklore, lively dances and emotional ballads of longing. Music that creates a rich, emotionally disquieting world that is at once familiar and dreamlike. A world of freedom, of movement, of dusty roads and traveling musicians in shaded market squares whose journey will never end. These are songs of magical realism mingling elements of fantasy, myth, desire and wanderlust in renderings that blur traditional distinctions between what is serious or trivial, melancholic or joyous.

“The magical realist does not try to copy the surrounding reality or to wound it but to seize the mystery that breathes behind things”

Luis Leal, *Magical Realism in Spanish American Literature*

Oriole's composer and guitarist Jonny Phillips was described by *The Guardian* as “A big new composing presence” and *Time Out* as “the brilliant F-IRE collective guitarist” on the release of the first Oriole album **Song for the Sleeping** in 2005. He has travelled widely blending the musical, folkloric and dance traditions of North Brazil, West Africa, Southern Europe and beyond. These influences have been as important as the folkloric music of his own region and the church music of his composer parents. Here both the migrations of the composer and the band members have resulted in the creation of new musical hybrids; the physical and artistic travels being inseparable. Oriole received enthusiastic reviews last year for live performances at venues such as **The Purcell Room, South Bank Centre** in London. **Migration's** release will be accompanied by a 15 date nationwide tour that will include **Cheltenham Jazz Festival** as Jerwood rising stars.

The album features an award winning international line-up including drummer Sebastian Rochford, saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock, cellist Ben Davis, bassist Anders Christensen, vocalist Julia Biel, percussionist Adriano Adewale Itaúna and clarinettist Idris Rahman. All top instrumentalists in their respective fields.

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Press contact: Peter Slavid
press@f-ire.com
+44 (0)798 501 8317

Distribution: Proper Music Distributed Limited
Brian Showell
brian@proper.uk.com
+44 (0)870 4440799.

Catalogue number: F-IRE CD 13

For enquiries about other
F-IRE bands contact:

admin@f-ire.com

Artist contact:

Jonny Phillips
Tel: 0773 4053414
info@oriole-music.co.uk

For touring info contact:

Alice Grant
Tel: 0786 3554075
alicegrant81@hotmail.com

Websites:

www.properdistribution.com
www.f-ire.com
www.oriole-music.com
www.myspace.com/oriole2



The Musicians

Jonny Phillips – *Acoustic Guitar*

Jonny was born in 1971 at the end of deserted moorland in the north of England. His first instrument was violin; when he was 15 he took up the guitar. Critics have hailed his beguiling, cinematic songs as "gentle beautiful music that is surprisingly affecting". Jonny is also a guitarist and co-composer for Julia Biel and is guitarist for The Soothsayers.

He is a member of the F-IRE Collective.

Ingrid Laubrock – *Tenor saxophone*

Ingrid has her own quintet and co-founded Monica Vasconcelos' Nois. In 2005 she was nominated for the rising star category of the BBC Jazz Awards. She received the Fellowship in Jazz Composition from The Arts Foundation in 2006.

Ben Davis – *Cello*

Ben is Britain's top improvising cellist. He played on the recent CMN funded F-IRE tour. He also plays for Julia Biel, Django Bates and Norma Winston.

Ruth Goller – *Electric Bass*

From northern Italy, Ruth plays for Giorgio Serci, Sherpa Boy and Beat Tree.

Sebastian Rochford – *Drums*

Winner of the best band at the BBC Jazz Awards, Nominated for the 2005 Mercury Award and plays drums for Acoustic Ladyland, Yoko Ono and has his own band Polar Bear.

Adriano Adewale Itaúna – *Percussion/ Vibrophone/Vocals.*

From São Paulo Brazil, Adriano plays for Antonio Forcione, Monica Vasconcelos and Modest.

Fernando De Marco – *Electric Bass, Cavaquinho.*

Born in Brazil, Fernando has been touring Brazil and Denmark with Joyces' sax player Teco Cardoso and Danish pianist Thomas Clausen who played with Miles Davis and Dexter Gordon.

Anders Christensen – *Electric Bass.*

Born in Denmark, Anders played in Paul Motions electric bebop band for the last ten years and is now touring the world with The Ravonettes.

Julia Biel – *Vocals*

Julia won the Perrier Jazz Award; she is a member of the F-IRE collective and last year released her own album "Not Alone" featuring collaborations with Jonny Phillips.

Idris Rahman – *Tenor Saxophone/Clarinet*

Idris is co-bandleader for The Soothsayers, he also plays for The Mad Professor, Julia Biel, Ayub Ogada and Zoe Rahman.

Okou – *Vocals*

From the Ivory Coast, sings backing vocals for Mick Jagger, Keziah Jones and is featured vocalist with the Four Corners Quintet alongside Mark Murphy.

Guillermo Rozenthuler - *Vocals*

Guillermo now performs in the UK with his own tango quintet after a more than a decade performing the length and breadth of South America. He also performs in Gilad Atzmons' group.



Notes for editors

Track notes.

1) FORMS IN DUST

7:54

This is a minor tonality theme with a major coda. The rhythm is a waltz style derived from Venezuelan music often having emphasis on the 3rd and 1st beats of the bar. The waltz migrated from Europe in colonial times and was integrated with African rhythms. It features very moving and dark soloing from Ingrid; spot the laughing.

2) FIRST FLIGHT

7:09

When I was growing up watching young birds making their first attempts at flight fascinated me. This is an ode to the joy all things new and to how the heart approaches what it yearns.

A 6:8 meter theme that develops slowly featuring the massive sound of Adriano's Calabash (bought from Brixton market), Sebastian and Adriano had an immediate and intuitive connection that brought the music to life. Sebastian took risks hitting the wall with his sticks to get some sharp sounds.

3) BATE CALADO intro

1:45

This was entirely improvised in the studio; a cello pedal tone and Adriano's atmospheric percussion underpin the gentle acoustic guitar playing.

4) BATE CALADO

4:13

Meaning "slowly beating drum" or "heartbeat" in Brazilian Portuguese. The style of this tune is Baiao, an African influenced style from Bahia in the north of Brazil. The vocals of Julia, Okou, Guillermo and Adriano were the idea of Brazilian bass player Fernando De Marco.

5) MIGRATION TO THE ORANGE TREES

5:39

The title derives from the composers' periodic desires to migrate to Andalucia in southern Spain; A desire for new experience, warm evenings, good food and the area's folkloric traditions. Local traditions brought by the Gypsies and the North African Moors (themselves searching for better lands) are still very much alive. Adriano's castanet pattern derives from the Flamenco style Bularias. The origins of this 12 beat style of dance and music come from Jerez De Frontera, which is also famous for its sherry and orange trees. Anders can be heard singing along with his bass solo.

6) WE'RE ALL ANGELS

4:50

The title is a statement of the belief that everyone has the potential to be a saint, an angel or a revolutionary. The style is Samba-Choro. It features "the bliss lovely clarinet of Idris Rahman" (*BBC Music*) and Fernando De Marco on Cavaquinho. Orchestra Mahatma are now also performing this tune.

7) SUNSHINE CONTINUOUS

5:41

This is catchy tune in a Mozambique (Cuban dance) style.

8) TWO SMILES

2:36

This is simple, happy gospel music about immediate connection. Influences are pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and South African songs.

9) HYMN

5:26

The African-gospel style melody is stated over an Afoxé (north Brazilian style derived from West African music) and then over a 12:8 meter African groove. The two saxophonists Ingrid and Idris interact with power.

10) LAST FLIGHT

4:23

This is perhaps the saddest song on the CD written on the theme of death and loss. There is always a last journey, a last day, a last word and a last flight.

11) AMEN

2:03

Amen literally means, "so be it" and has connotations of truth and acceptance. The American Indians were so good at accepting their reality that even when captured and tortured by the Americans they frequently never uttered a sound.

This was written as a duet for Ben and Ingrid. It is close in style to a Bach prelude. The harmony is more contemporary however.



Migration Tour

7 th April	London, Croydon Clock Tower 0208 2531030, www.croydon.gov.uk/clocktower
23 th April	Norwich Arts Centre 01603 660352, www.norwichartscentre.co.uk
30 th April	Cheltenham Jazz Festival 01242 227979, www.cheltenhamfestivals.co.uk
11 th May	London, The Vortex Jazz Club <i>Migration</i> - Album Launch 020 7254 4097, www.vortexjazz.co.uk
11 th June	Birmingham, The Glee Club 0870 241 5093, www.glee.co.uk
17 th June	London, The Albany Theatre 0208 692 4446, www.thealbany.org.uk
18 th June	Colchester Arts Centre 01206 500 900, www.colchesterartscentre.com
2 nd September	London, The Vortex Jazz Club 020 7254 4097, www.vortexjazz.co.uk
6 th October	Devon, Broomhill Arts Hotel www.broomhillart.co.uk/jazz/index
10 th November	London, The Spitz 020 7392 9032, www.spitz.co.uk/
17 th November	York, National Centre for Early Music 01904 658338, www.ncem.co.uk ,



How to attract an Oriole

Orioles love citrus fruit. Cut an orange or grapefruit in half and hang it from a tree branch with a piece of string.



Previous quotes

"Jonny's band Oriole is part of the F-IRE Collective. What impressed me was the mixture of Jazz with Latin rhythms, especially the Brazilian material which captures the gentle sensuality of that music very effectively."

Tony Dudley Evans

"Gentle beautiful music that is surprisingly affecting"

Time Out

"*Song for the Sleeping* a gorgeous lullaby performed by Jonny Phillips Oriole"

Straight No Chaser

"More downtown New York than south east London"

Jazzwise

"An off kilt lullaby from the stars, refracted through 'Somewhere over the rainbow' and 'Come Sunday'."

Straight No Chaser

"Oriole features guitarist Jonny Phillips and singer Julia Biel, with their *Song for the Sleeping* - a remarkable showcase"

BBC Online

"a big new composing presence if this calmly eloquent music is anything to go by."

The Guardian

"Songs count more than solos, yet the musical contributions of Seb Rochford and cellist Ben Davis are hard to ignore. Likewise the plaintive singing of Julia Biel, that fits perfectly into Phillips' beguiling world."

Jazzwise

"Oriole are one of those groups that avoid the obvious choices of instrumentation, coming instead with the colours of the bass clarinet and cello in the mix- reminiscent of a modern day Chico Hamilton."

Straight No Chaser

"cinematic folkish lullabies that explore the cultural pathways between Brazil, Europe and West Africa. Gentle beautiful music that is surprisingly affecting."

Time Out

"Oriole proves how open minded young British based improvisers are these days."

Jazzwise

"Oriole ultimately displays more lyrical and worldly traits than its contemporaries."

Jazzwise

Last year Oriole's first album *Song For The Sleeping* was played on Radio 3's Jazz on 3, Jazz Fm, Radio 3's Jazz Line-up and featured in Straight no Chaser, Jazzwise and Time Out. They were given a four star review by The Guardian, album of the week by The Independent and performed live as part of the Rhythm Sticks Festival at The Purcell Room, The South Bank Centre.

