

# Smart Metal Hornets & Dix

## Archduke Shuffle

The Styrian hornplayer-project SMART METAL HORNETS was founded in 1990 by the Styrian brassplayer/composer Christoph Wundrak in Graz. The challenging basic idea was to replace the rhythm section of a traditional Jazz-quintett (2 horns, piano/bass/drums) by just one basshornplayer. Until now this group has survived all ups and downs of the Austrian and International culturescene.

On their 4th CD this remarkable trio (2 woodwindplayers, 1 brassplayer) is engaged with Styrian folkmusic, Klezmer and some other influences in it's approved humorous and original way. The trio operates out of a bluesy/rocky/funky/jazzy base, where groovy, joyfull and humorous playing, openness for experiments and fanciful compositions/arrangements are characteristic for. The title-song 'Archduke-Shuffle' is 'symptomatic' for this engagement and relates itself to the wordfamous 'Erzherzog-Johann-Jodler' (Archduke-John-Yodeler, styrian folksong)

On 7 tunes (11 altogether) the trio gets superb support by the international well-known drummer/percussionist WOLFRAM DIX from Leipzig/Germany. He has worked with musicians like Nigel Kennedy, Nina Hagen, Joe Zawinul, Charlie Mariano.....and has worked with SMH since 2001. He has travelled Austria, Germany and China with this group.

Because of the many instruments (besides drumset, bongos and kanjira 7 woodwind- and 4 brassinstruments are used) and these humorous-wilfull compositions/arrangements a varied and unusual soundsituation arises, which shows an amazing multiplicity in sound and styles. Despite or even because of this amusing unusuality this CD is entertaining in a special way.

Often you have the impression of a 'mini-bigband', which gets it's energetic motivation from examples representing the bluesrock-genre like Johnny Winter or Rory Gallagher, but without losing sight of it's alpin origin. At the same time you can feel a respectful engagement with jazztradition. Especially the four trio-recordings have a strong touch of chamber music.

Among 9 original compositions by Christoph Wundrak there is a traditional Klezmer-piece as well as the old CCR-song 'Suzie Q' on the record.



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### Tracklisting:

01. Archduke Shuffle (5:04)
02. Seven Rabbits (4:03)
03. Irish Coffee (5:18)
04. Skocne (2:29)
05. Sax Mugl Alice (5:35)
06. Heckenklescher (5:27)
07. Down Syndrom (4:49)
08. Blackwood Jodler (4:12)
09. Suzie Q (3:41)
10. R.G. in Murau (5:09)
11. Zugluft (4:18)

### Lineup:

Gernot Strebl: Alt-, Tenor-, Sopransax, Klarinette  
 Johannes Harpf: Bariton-, Tenorsax, Bassklarinette  
 Christoph Wundrak: Euphonium, Kornett, Flügelhorn, Tuba, Komp/Arr.  
 Wolfram Dix: Kanjira, Bongos, Drums/Perc-Arr.

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