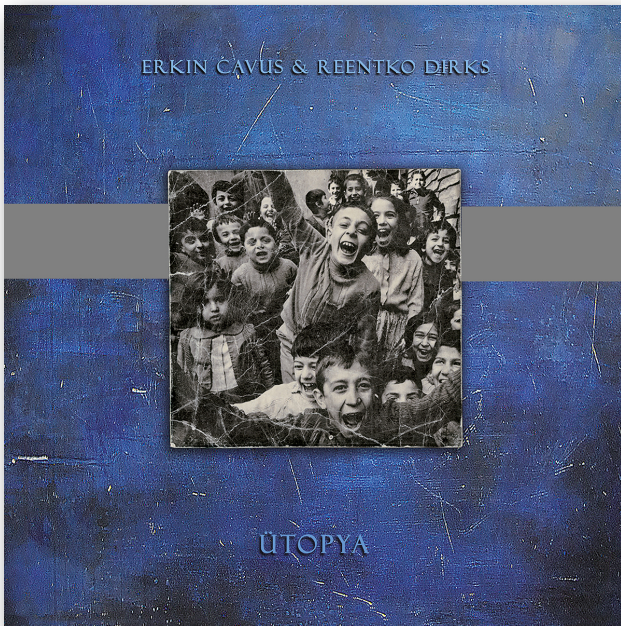


TRAUMTON Records

Grunewaldstr. 9 D-13597 Berlin Germany

030 331 93 50
info@traumton.de
www.traumton.de



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Erkin Cavus & Reentko Dirks Ütopya

Erkin Cavus: acoustic double neck guitar

Reentko Dirks: bariton guitar

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Erkin Cavus & Reentko Dirks - Ütopya

Erkin Cavus and Reentko Dirks bring together the worlds of East and West in their music." (Milliyet, Turkey)

With their album "Istanbul 1900", released in 2021, Erkin Cavus and Reentko Dirks have set a sonorous monument to the metropolis on the Bosphorus - impressed by the pictures of the famous photographer Ara Güler (1928-2018), which capture a world that is partly long gone. The delicate and atmospherically dense music of the two guitarists enthused the audience and the press - and could even conquer the charts in some countries. Deutschlandfunk Kultur called Istanbul 1900 a "fantastic album", Jazz Thing located it "in a cosmos all its own" and the magazine Jazzthetik judged "Istanbul 1900 is a masterpiece".

After taking a look at the past, the duo creates a musical vision for Istanbul in 2053 on their new work "Ütopya", with Cavus and Dirks drawing inspiration from forward-looking ideas of the futurzwei.org institute and from developments already realized in cities around the world. The leitmotif is sustainable transformation: the public spaces created by calming and greening become social and analog meeting places for urban society or even non-commercial cultural venues. Cavus and Dirks clothe their utopia in partly contemplative, partly sweeping duets of suggestive power. The two highly adept and sensitive guitarists let typical stylistic elements of the Orient echo, and at times memories of flamenco style seem to waft past on the horizon. Sometimes they decorate their melodic-transparent playing with carefully balanced electronic sounds.

The duo's creative will reflects the different personal backgrounds of the two musicians. Erkin Cavus (*1977) spent many years of his life in Istanbul. Here he became a celebrated guitarist, playing alongside (film music) icon Erkan Ogur, among others. After training with a focus on Western classical music, Cavus began to deepen his unconventional playing style on the fretless guitar neck in 1996 and had his first special guitar built. It allows him to play with quarter tones, similar to the oud.

In the early 2000s, he completed master class studies in Dresden, where he met Reentko Dirks. The duo won the special prize at the international guitar competition in Osnabrück, released the album Planet Kalkan, wrote a feature film score. An involuntary return of Cavus to Istanbul put the duo on forced hiatus (since 2017 he lives in Germany again), meanwhile Reentko Dirks (*1979) made a career in Germany. He developed individual, rhythmic- percussive playing techniques on the guitar, dealt intensively with flamenco and Arabic music. For his album "Sounds For The Silver Screen" he worked with Hollywood composer Richard Horowitz, he became a member of the exclusive European Guitar Quartet and played with Yo-Yo Ma and Giora Feidman. The CD Carmen with Ksenija Sidorova, co-arranged and recorded by Dirks, received the Klassik-Echo in 2017. Since 2019, he has been a permanent member of the quartet Masaa, whose poetic songs oscillate between Arabic melodicism and jazz and were awarded the German Jazz Award in 2021.

In developing the repertoire for "Ütopya", the duo again took their time. The secluded recording location of ta studio in the forrest, away from car traffic and the internet, allowed the music to become even more impressionistic. The album features collaborations with close musical heavyweights - pianist Clemens Christian Poetzsch, Danish string player Bjarke Falgren, and Demian Kappenstein, who is here not in his usual role as a drummer, but as a sound tinkerer.

Now Reentko Dirks and Erkin Cavus present their new epic "Ütopya" live for the first time. The only thing they have on stage are their guitars, and with them they take you from Istanbul 1900 to the Istanbul of the future.

"Their music is performed with such overwhelming power that the listener is carried away and moved to tears." (Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten)