

Wolfgang Muthspiel 4tet

EARTH MOUNTAIN

Material Records MRE021

Release date: 6th October 2008,

“The quieter Muthspiel gets, the more deafening the sound of a dropped pin. Muthspiel's patient musicality and the meticulousness with which he releases even the smallest sound are his secrets. Everything he plays sounds essential” **John Fordham The Guardian**

Wolfgang Muthspiel – guitars, Jean-Paul Brodbeck – piano, Matthias Pichler – bass and Andreas Pichler - drums

Austrian guitarist **Wolfgang Muthspiel** has been making a name for himself as one of Europe's finest musicians. An endlessly resourceful, subtle, always hugely listenable player his reputation has soared over a series of extraordinary albums for his own label **Material Records**.

Recordings that have featured him as a solo performer, in duet with **Dhafer Youssef**, with the brilliant singer **Rebekka Bakken** or in powerhouse trio with bassist **Marc Johnson** and drummer **Brian Blade**. In October 2007, Muthspiel invited Swiss pianist **Jean-Paul Brodbeck** to join his band and perform a new repertoire of songs Muthspiel had written for quartet.

After a European tour they recorded the new music, which will be released in October 2008 on **Material Records** (the label Muthspiel founded in 2000). The new recording - entitled '**Earth Mountain**' - is an extension of Muthspiel's work in the trio with Austrian twin brothers **Matthias** and **Andreas Pichler**. The trio's first album, 'Bright Side', received glowing reviews around the world.

On '**Earth Mountain**', Muthspiel and Brodbeck engage in a constant harmonic dialogue. The new pieces - at times leaning towards hip-hop and rock grooves - create a dense and earthy band sound, both inviting and daring. Add the fine rhythm section of the Pichler brothers on drums and bass, and compositions like '**Jackson's Pocket**', '**Earth Mountain**' or '**Radiohead**' naturally unfold with an ecstatic energy.

Never abstract, the music has all the twists, turns and intricacies that Muthspiel's music is known for. In the context of the composed pieces, the flight of improvisation takes on a major role. With Brodbeck's subtle and inventive accompaniment, Muthspiel's free-ranging solos are carried and supported more than ever before.

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