

Anthony Joseph & The Spasm Band
Rubber Orchestras
Release Date: October 10th
Naïve

Third album from poet and musician Anthony Joseph and his band, produced by Malcolm Catto (The Heliocentrics) & featuring Jerry Dammers

With a title inspired by lines from surrealist poet Ted Joans, ***Rubber Orchestras*** is the stunning new album from poet and musician **Anthony Joseph**. A mesmerising mix of funk, jazz, rock, Afrobeat, soca with Joseph's distinctive vocal delivery, skilfully produced by drummer and leader of **The Heliocentrics Malcolm Catto** and including one very special track arranged and produced by **Jerry Dammers**.

The opening words on the new album "*The griot is the sound of universal culture*" are key to understanding the universe of Anthony Joseph, born in Port of Spain but London-based for many years. Having carved out a highly successful career writing and performing poetry (and teaching), as well as recording and performing with his band **The Spasm Band**, one would be hard pressed to think of any other present day performer doing something akin to what Joseph is doing on ***Rubber Orchestras***. Anyone who still treasures a copy of *Axis Bold as Love* by Jimi Hendrix will recognize some aspects of the vocal delivery, mix that with a bit of Benjamin Zephaniah, Bob Marley and Sly Stone and you already have a rough idea of the vocal timbres.

Musically, ***Rubber Orchestras*** is rockier and more melodic than previous albums, the title also referring to the range of different atmospheres and grooves present on the album, on which new Cuban rhythms give a more 'calypso rock' overlay to the 'voodoo funk' base. The decision to use producer Malcolm Catto came about through a mutual love of 70s music and Catto's extensive knowledge of analogue sound. Several members of Catto's band The Heliocentrics appear on the album, as well as Catto himself on percussion, plus **Shabaka Hutchings** on clarinets and trumpeter **Robin Hopcraft**. There are also the deep, warm vocals of singer **Jasnett Lindo** that underscore this new, more melodic direction.

Last but not least, Jerry Dammers (with whom Anthony Joseph has been playing for years in The Spatial AKA), has also come to the banquet. The legendary founder of The Specials, one of the most important UK bands of the 80s, took to the controls to arrange and enhance a visionary and revolutionary poem, the iconic suite called '*Generations*'. A stand out track on the album, the lyrics talk about Joseph's relationship to his homeland and its history through his ancestors. They struck a chord with Dammers and his beautifully sparse arrangement with understated vocals marries perfectly with Joseph's words.

Anthony Joseph's new book, also entitled ***Rubber Orchestras***, will be published on 15 November by Salt Publishing

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