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Triband - Trip

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How do we tell a song is a good song? The easiest way is probably to check if it blends in with our general attitude to life. With its first note, the first syllable sung it's there with us to change the way we feel. This is where the *Trip* of Triband's new album begins. Whether softly flowing or in a stirring up-tempo: these songs float unresistingly into ourselves. They push a hidden reset key inside us and make us susceptible to comforting shivers. This music churns up the body: not ecstatically, but organically. We subtly begin to breathe its rhythm, finally finding ourselves on a fascinating inner trip - an intense *Trip* through the entire range of our own pulse beat from calm to racing. Because one thing is for sure: this music is alive!

Triband consists of the founding members **Sandie Wollasch** (vocals), **Sebastian Studnitzky** (trumpet, keyboards), and **Tommy Baldu** (drums), as well as **Michael Paucker** (bass) who has joined in as the fourth band member. The list of greats from jazz, pop and electronica these four have worked with during their careers so far is as long as it is impressive, but not really of any importance here. Because Triband is much more than the sum of its members' professional experiences: it is one of the few grown creative collectives in today's music scene. This team's members constantly inspire each other and respectfully put one very plausible insight into action: *"We simply play and compose best when we're together."*

The ten songs on *Trip*, Triband's new and second album, have an almost physical presence, and while they are playful and full of relish, they are still consistently developed from rough, strangely unconsumed grooves. They connect laid-back songwriting of timelessly good pop music with the freedom and the attitude of jazz. They confidently blend these two universes into a distinguishably self-contained sound, a luscious urban cocktail, seductively light, but still heavily inspiring. Triband adds depth to lifestyle.

Triband's highly acclaimed debut album "No Sleep" was released two years ago. Two years of tireless touring for the band, which made them grow even closer. *"It seemed logical to present nothing but our own compositions on the new album for the first time"*, says **Tommy Baldu**, *"real Triband numbers, songs that we've developed together entirely."* That is what constitutes the magic of this band. A mostly handmade magic: *"We work with a strong emphasis on groove, but we don't come from a tradition of loops and sound tinkers"*; **Sebastian Studnitzky** explains: *"Our grooves are played, not computer designed, even where they sound electronic. Generally our production has become very organic. The up-to-dateness of our sound, which is very important to us, is mostly handmade with rather 'classical' means. We use instruments that seem unusual for this kind of music like a church organ, a melotron, a reed organ. The drums often sound muffled or rattling, sometimes the guitars are purposely played in a 'dilletante' way, the way we use microphones is totally unusual. That way every song really gets everything it requires."* **Michael Paucker** adds: *"Of course we are influenced by Trip Hop and electronic jazz, but our interpretation is an acoustic one."* What the sound of Triband is most of all: alive. *"Productionwise"*, says Baldu, *"we all go for recordings that don't sound obsessively perfect. We prefer the ones that are a little weird and peculiar. We care about authentic emotions, about music that pulls the listener in, music that is free and liberating. What we do is indie jazz, so to speak."* The band puts an emphasis on the respect for the song, not so much on showing off virtuosity playing instruments. *"What we aim for is lucid, unpretentious storytelling with wicked grooves and moving melodies."*

This concept also causes enthusiasm in live performances - all over international clubs and festivals from Moscow to Lisbon. The fact that this band leaves just about every venue with

a handshake contract for the next gig speaks for itself, as this is rare in times of dramatically diminishing possibilities to perform.

The go-ahead for this new, second album was given about a year ago on one of the band's *Trips*. The first four pieces were generated here. *"Traveling is generally very important for us as a band"*, explains **Sandie Wollasch**, *"because it shows us that we actually reach people with our music. Not only did we see a lot of places and met a lot of nice people, from almost every trip we brought back an idea for a song. In our song Trip we give back this feeling of being welcome to those who have given it to us. It also describes the basic human need for the big, wide world in a simple way; the need to leave everything behind for the duration of the trip."*

This song was chosen as the title track for the album for its many associations. It also reflects an important aspect of the group's self-conception: spontaneity. *"The piece developed while we had swapped roles in a rehearsal just for fun"*, laughs **Tommy Baldu**. *"Michael was playing guitar and I was playing bass, although our abilities playing these instruments are to be called rudimentary at the most. However, we recorded this with little ambition, using a laptop and crummy equipment. Later on we liked it so much, we just kept it that way for the album. We thought: okay, the recording is a little rattly, but the melody is cool and it's got groove to it! So let the sound engineer go through the trouble of seeing what he can do with it. At the end this first recording actually turned into an important part of the finished song."* And the sound engineer did not find the work on this any trouble at all, he was easily intoxicated by the liveliness and authenticity of the material.

Next to their unconventional approach to making music, the band members are also connected by their specific sense of humor, which has kept them relaxed and inspired through the entire production phase. This sense of humor is in itself a very special *Trip*. But that is a whole different story...

Triband: Trip on Tour 2008

09.02.2008 Baden Baden
01.04.2008 Regensburg
02.04.2008 Dornbirn (A)
03.04.2008 Gaggenau
04.04.2008 Ravensburg
05.04.2008 Ludwigshafen
09.05.2008 Düsseldorf/ Jazzralley

More Information at: www.triband-music.de and www.herzogrecords.com

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Interviews with the musicians can be arranged at any time!