

Cosmic Vibrations is the new band around the Los Angeles based spiritual soul singer Dwight Trible. Their debut album Pathways And Passages is a free ode to, and at the same time a vision for the future, of spiritual jazz.

Trible has put together a magnificent band with legendary names. Percussionist / flutist Derf Reklaw played with Pharaoh Sanders, Terry Callier, Minnie Ripperton and Herbie Hancock (and that's only a limited feat), double bassist Horace Williams played with Horace Silver, Roy Ayers, Dizzy Gillespie and Freddie Hubbard (again a select one) and saxophonist / bass clarinetist Pablo Calogero played with Titi Puente and Yusef Lateef, among others.

Percussionist Christopher Garcia, just like drummer / electronist Breeze Smith, comes from the avant-garde and improvisation. They have also earned their spurs in various companies over the decades. It's also great how Scott Fraser's surprising slide guitar nestles effortlessly into the sound of the band.

A band full of refined musicians who take their craftsmanship and love for free and spiritual jazz to the fullest and have recorded Pathways And Passages in a completely like-minded way. An album that goes full for the musical adventure and in which ghosts and singing are accompanied by both Latin and African rhythms and jazz overflows in spacious and varied shoots.

Pathways And Passages is an album like a trip. The compositions take place in many changing structures, whips up, swing, push through the blender, dive full of adventure, hush, disturb, offer hope, continuously surprise. Especially because vocal lines are intertwined / recorded, instruments are duplicated, cleverly inlaid electronics enhance the compositions.

They are compositions that, although not really accessible, do feel extremely challenging. You immediately feel that you want to understand them in peace and take them in. In everything you feel that this is music that will amaze and move even more with every listen. It's also great how Scott Fraser's surprising slide guitar nestles effortlessly into the sound of the band. It gives even more depth.

Trible is not only the great singer who always grabs your attention but also a musician who is always political. A man with a spiritual heart and mind who always speaks out clearly about how he sees the world and always does so with great conviction and intelligence. And of course it does with that dark and divine soulful voice of his. He always impresses with his lyrics, which always contain stories about social situations and abuses, yet always harbor hope. And voyage of discovery through his lyrics is the additional recommendation.

When you hear Trible sing the stars from heaven in the subdued beautiful closing song Some Other Time with that soul-infused beautiful voice of his, you only want one thing and that is to put on the album again from the beginning and understand how we ended up there.

Pathways And Passages is a completely intriguing album that only gets you to the core in several listening turns. An album as a voyage of discovery in which live performances by the band would help a lot to get to that core even earlier. An album made by musicians who have been nourished for a lifetime by spiritual jazz, full of musically adventurous and improvisation, creating new musical landscapes and vistas that are extraordinarily interesting.

***Dick Hovenga***