

COLIN TOWNS AND hr BIGBAND

• Visions of Miles | The Electric Period of Miles Davis •

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It's hard to move for Miles Davis tributes these days, but it is also hard to think of many better-qualified contenders for a big-band version than the British jazz and film composer Colin Towns. This live show with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band takes a broad sweep across Davis's electric and funk-powered music from the late 1960s to the 80s, with reworkings of classics from *In A Silent Way*, *Bitches Brew*, *Agharta*, *Tutu*, and a lot more. Towns is a brilliant deployer of a big jazz band's textural variety and raw power, and he combines it with the movie-composer's sense of drama.

The UK's Julian Argüelles is among an A-team of soloists, but the dominant instrument is the entire band. The unnervingly hypnotic *Spanish Key* (from *Bitches Brew*) surfaces in wild, slewing brass fanfares and racing percussion patterns; *Back Seat Betty* soars on the searing trumpet sound of Axel Schlosser; and the rhythm section triumphantly handles everything from the lazy shuffle of *Agharta Prelude* to the breathless conga shuffle of *Aida*.

It must have been a stunning show to witness. – John Fordham, *The Guardian*
“Towns is a master of texture and pacing, and he and his top-notch players have together crafted a pulsating suite that is at once thoroughly Miles-ish and highly original. It's a great advert for both Davis and contemporary big band. – Robert Shon, „Metro“

Bitches Brew, *Spanish Key* • *Moja (Part 1)* • *Black Satin* • *Wili (Part 1)* • *Backseat Betty* • *He Loved Him Madly* • *Agartha Prelude Dub* • *Calypso Frelimo* • *Aida* • *In A Silent Way* • *Full Nelson* • *Hannibal* • *My Man* ☹️ *s Gone Now* • *Fast Track* • *Tutu*
Heinz-Dieter Sauerborn (as, ss, fl, a-fl) • Oliver Leicht (as, ss, fl, a-fl, b-fl) • Tony Lakatos (ts, ss, fl, a-fl, b-fl) • Julian Argüelles (ts, ss, a-fl, b-cl) • Rainer Heute (bs, b-cl, contrab-cl) • Andy Greenwood (tp, flh) • Thomas Vogel (tp, flh) • Martin Auer (tp, flh) • Axel Schlosser (tp, flh) • Günter Bollmann (tb, euph) • Peter Feil (tb, euph) • Christian Jaksjø (tb, euph) • Manfred Honetschläger (btb) • Martin Scales (g) • Vladislav Sendekci (p, fender rhodes, keyb.) • Thomas Heidepriem (b) • Farouk Gomati (perc) • Wolfgang Haffner (dr)