



## Aros

Aros' debut, self-titled CD was released in June 2001 on the Dutch label BVHAAST (cd 1101), and has had an enthusiastic response in Europe. The group has recently performed at the Vienna Music Gallery (contemporary music festival) the BIM huis (top Amsterdam jazz venue), the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam's museum of modern art), they have also performed compositions by co-leader's Armus & von Tilzer for dance ensembles and film.

Aros doesn't align itself with any specific genre or school; their collective influences and experience span a wide range of music from American jazz and improvised music, to European classical and new music, to African and South American music.

Aros is: Rob Armus (sax,comp), Marion von Tilzer (piano,comp), John Korsrud (trumpet), Oene van Geel (violin), Ernst Glerum (bass), Alan Purves (percussion).

*"...an intriguing cd... as with all good improvised music, the instrumentation of the compositions is well-considered. They blend wonderfully together..."*

-Utrechts Nieuwsblad (Holland)

*"Aros' music is refined, sharp, with Tango accents. The melodies and timbres come across with great delicacy." (\*\*\*\*)*

Jean Buzelin, Jazzman (France)

*"...Aros is tonal, swinging, inventive, new Jazz, and shouldn't be missed."*

-Phillip McNally, Cadence (USA)

## Rob Armus, saxophonist/composer:

Rob Armus was born in Liverpool, England in 1966. He grew up and studied music in Vancouver, Canada, and has been performing jazz and original music for 15 years in North and South America, Europe and Israel. Since settling in Amsterdam in 1992, Armus has collaborated with many musicians, including Han Bennink, Tristan Honsinger, Wolter Wierbos and Michiel Borstlap. He also composes music for dance and film.

Current projects as leader: Aros (a six piece contemporary music ensemble), Rob Armus Quartet; Fabrizio Puglisi-piano, Ernst Glerum-bass, Clarence Becton-drums, (original jazz compositions), Rob Armus Impromptu Quartet; Han Bennink-drums, Tristan Honsinger-cello, Wilbert de Joode-bass (mostly improv.).

*"...Rob Armus sounds relaxed and contained."*

-Het Parool (Amsterdam)

**Marion von Tilzer, piano/composer:**

The Austrian pianist/composer Marion von Tilzer studied classical piano at the Sweelinck Conservatory, Amsterdam. She has been performing as a soloist and a chamber musician in Spain, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands.

Besides performing in regular concert settings, Marion has also played in several music-theatre productions. She premiered various works by composers in the Dutch new music scene and

was broadcasted by several Dutch radio stations.

She's the Co-leader of Aros, a group that combines the tradition of Jazz with that of European classical/contemporary music. Besides composing for this ensemble, she's also been asked to write for film.

Marion was one of the three performers of the piece "Spi" by Y. Kyriakides, which won the first prize in the Gaudeamus New Music Week 2000. Since then they have been touring with this programme in- and outside of the Netherlands.

**Ernst Glerum, bass:**

Ernst Glerum was born in 1955 in the Netherlands. He studied classical contrabass at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam, where he now teaches. During his studies Ernst played with many of Amsterdam's adventurous improvisers including Willem Breuker, Theo Loevendie and Curtis Clark. In 1984 he initiated the Amsterdam String Trio, with Maurice Horsthuis and Ernst Reisinger. Over seven years they toured extensively throughout Europe and North America. Ernst has performed with Steve Lacy, George Lewis, Henry Threadgill, Jaki Byard, Peter Brötzmann and Lee Konitz to name a few. He remains one of Amsterdam's most in demand bass players and is currently playing with, ICP (Instant Composers Pool with Misha Megelberg and Han Bennink), Available Jelly (with Michael Moore and Michael Vatcher), Trio Janssen/Glerum/Janssen (with Guus Janssen), Trio Borstlap/Bennink/Glerum (with Michiel Borstlap).

**Alan Purves, percussion:**

Alan Purves (1952), also named Gunga, is a Scottish composer and percussionist, a musical omnivore who feels comfortable with almost any style. For about thirty years he plays rock'n roll, reggae, jazz and improvised music. He doesn't study licks or styles, but his musical activities show his affinity for ethnic rhythms: a long stint with South African sax player Sean Bergin, with Portuguese singer Fernando Lameirinhas, with the American sax player John Zorn with his Massada and Cobra projects and with trumpet player Rajesh Metha, whose rhythms have an Indian touch. In Sardinia he recorded with local vocal quartets and cellist Ernst Reijseger (a longtime booster and duopartner). He jammed with a Transylvanian Gypsy band at the Bimhuis, accompanied Jodi Gilbert on songs inspired by a California Indian and played with Argentinian bandoneon player Gustavo Toker. He often performs with Ernst Reijseger and trombone player Wolter Wierbos. His arsenal reaches back into everybody's past: children's squeeze toys and whirly tubes, whistles, small drums from everywhere, Chinese-opera cymbals, pairs of "bones" he clacks in either hand like a proper Scot.

**John Korsrud, trumpet:**

John Korsrud has composed for film, dance, theatre and even for Mario Bros. video games. He formed the New Music/ Jazz Ensemble, Hard Rubber Orchestra in 1990 after graduating with a degree in music from the University of British Columbia. Recent commissions include Everything I Say is True for the Queen Mab Ensemble of Lori Freedman and Marilyn Lerner which premiered at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre in April, 1999, Swing Theory, for choreographer Joe Laughlin which premiered at the 1998 Canada Dance Festival and Glurp, for the Combustion Chamber Orchestra which premiered on VPRO Television, The Netherlands in April, 1997. A commissioned work for the CBC Radio Orchestra will premiere in 2000.

As a trumpet player, John has performed with artists such as George Lewis, Vinny Golia, Butch Morris, Barry Guy, Rene Lussier, Myra Melford, Kenny Wheeler, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Vancouver's New Orchestra Workshop, and the Vancouver Ensemble of Jazz Improvisation (VEJI). From 1995 to 1997 John did post-graduate composition studies with Louis Andriessen at Royal Conservatory of in The Netherlands.

**Oene van Geel, violin:**

Oene van Geel (1973) studied Jazzviolin and composition / arranging at the Rotterdam Conservatory. Teachers: Michael Gustorff (jazz), Thijs Kramer(classical), Rob Pronk (arranging) en Bob Brookmeyer (composition).After this he studied South Indian and contemporary music with Rafael Reina at the Amsterdam Conservatory. Whether he is playing violin, viola or percussion, Oene van Geel is always integrating elements from different musical traditions such as: jazz and improvised music, contemporary music, classical music, pop music and etnical music from around. With the group 'On The Line' he won the Dutch Jazz Competition 2001. He won also won the soloist prize of that edition. With his group 'Mosaic' he won the Jur Naessens Muziekprijs 2000. He founded more groups. Among them was 'GEEL!'. In 1998 this group won the Dutch Jazz Contest and got the second price at the 'Getxo International Jazz Contest' (Spain).In 1997 he won the composition contest of the Amersfoorts Jazzfestival with a composition for his string quartet 'ZAPP!'. Other projects are: 'The ZAPP! String Quartet', 'Pavlov', 'De Wereldband (a theatrical band)', 'Bhedam (a band that will tour in India in January 2002), 'Osmosis'( a contemporary music group).

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