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**BEBO FERRA & PAOLINO DALLA PORTA** release **ARIA** (OS505)

**Available FEBRUARY 2007 in US, OCTOBER 2006 in Japan, SEPTEMBER 2006 in France, and MAY 2006 in the UK and Italy.**

When it comes to talk about their duo, Bebo Ferra and Paolino dalla Porta inevitably end up using the word *empathy* very often.

Both started their professional careers in Milan, Italy and have crossed paths many times. Since the early 90's the two musicians have been discovering each other's musicianship by playing in various bands, including pianist's **Antonio Farao**, and by recording several albums together. "During these occasional encounters we developed a strong sympathy that turned quickly into deep respect due to our similarities in music: melodic sensibility, rhythmic approach and an inclination to taking risks." says bassist Paolino dalla Porta.

In '97 dalla Porta was commissioned with a series of duo concerts at the church of Santa Lucia in Bologna and immediately thought about a duet with Bebo Ferra.

"I remember we played completely 'un-plugged' in a marvelous setting. The audience was raptured by the sound. It was such a compelling experience that we decided to continue playing together as a strictly acoustic duo" tells guitarist Bebo Ferra.

After years of solid collaboration and their first album **Bagatelle** (Splash), Ferra and dalla Porta had the opportunity to record their first global release **Aria** (OS 505) for ObliqSound with all-new music written for the project. "...I was particularly excited about the compositions of both musicians." writes guitar guru **Ralph Towner** who signed the liner notes for the album.

In fact, besides the instrumental virtuosity of the players, the striking and defining element in the album is the compositional writing. The opening tune by dalla Porta "*Corale*" has a declamatory style functioning as an introduction to the following piece "*Matisse's Dance*", a completely through-composed piece with the exception of a improvisation section of the bass over a guitar vamp in 7/4. The piece was inspired by the French artist's famous painting "*La Danse*".

"I attended the Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan (Academy of Fine Arts) and I painted for long period. I find that abstract and informal art and music improvisation have many aspects in common. The figurative art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a constant source of inspiration" says dalla Porta.

Both musicians have very interesting backgrounds and cultural references that are reflected in their music. Bebo Ferra's own piece "*Spleen*" (in French 'melancholy'), borrows the title and the mood of the popular poem by Charles Baudelaire. Dalla Porta's piece "*Amor Sacro, Amor Profano*" (*sacred and profane love*) was inspired by the painting of renaissance Italian artist Titian.

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Explained with the composer's words: " The compositions has two souls. An initial theme in 3/4 goes into a harmonic progression in 11/4 where both instruments improvise. It's a piece with a dualistic nature. A sacred and a profane one. "

The work's title ***Aria***, literally "singable melody" in Italian, a term commonly used in the classical world, suggests immediately the soothing and lyrical atmosphere of the record. " We were looking for a short simple word that expressed the strong melodic character and the chamber music influences in Bebo and Paolino. When I proposed the title they both agreed that it was ideal " says producer **Michele Locatelli**.

Both players have other projects of their own are extremely appreciated sidemen and are both touring the globe with Italian jazz star trumpet player **Paolo Fresu** as part of his "Devil Quartet". "We really want to make use of the incredible exposure we're receiving from this tour and concentrate on promoting our own music and play in duo as much as possible" says Ferra, "we're already thinking about recording a live album!" adds dalla Porta. Empathy flows strong between these musicians and it's impeccably recorded on this new album ***Aria***.

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