



MULATU ASTATKE & HOODNA ORCHESTRA Tension

Label

BATOV RECORDS

Format

LP

Catalog Number

BTR 103LP

EAN

4062548096996



Store Price

\$20.79

Release Date

11/08/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - A - WORLD



Format

LP

Catalog Number

BTR 103RED-LP

EAN

4062548097993



Store Price

\$23.39

DESCRIPTION

Ethio-jazz pioneer **Mulatu Astatke** joins the **Hoodna Orchestra**, Tel Aviv's number one Afro funk collective, melding his enchanting vibraphone playing with their brass heavy force across seven original compositions that play tribute to the classic Mulatu sound while forging fresh paths. Produced by and featuring **Dap-King Neal Sugarman**, the results are gritty, yet majestic, soulful and uplifting. Mulatu Astatke requires little introduction at this point. Born in Jimma, Ethiopia, Mulatu went on to live and study in London, Boston and New York. Initially drawn to and trained in jazz and Latin music, he developed the sound he called "Ethio-jazz" over a series of seminal albums combining jazz, Latin, funk and soul, with traditional Ethiopian scales and rhythms. Formed in 2012 on the south side of Tel Aviv, the 12 member Hoodna Orchestra is a collective of musicians and composers who initially bonded over a shared love of Afrobeat. They have gone on to incorporate psychedelic rock, hard funk and soul, jazz, and East African music into their sought-after releases, winning praise and airplay from the likes of **Iggy Pop** and **Huey Morgan** on BBC Radio 6 Music. The collective draws together a huge array of musical talents such as guitarist **Ilan Smilan** and organist **Eitan Drabkin** of **Sababa 5** fame, Shalosh trio drummer **Matan Assayag**, and percussionist **Rani Birenbaum** of **The Faithful Brothers**, many of whom also contribute compositions to the orchestra, ensuring its collaborative environment. Since releasing a recording with Ethiopian singer **Tesfaye Negatu**, Hoodna Orchestra had been looking to find ways to collaborate with Astatke himself and in early 2023 the opportunity arose to invite Astatke to Tel Aviv, record an album and perform it live for their home audience. Stars aligned as **Neal Sugarman**, multi-instrumentalist member of the Dap-Kings and co-founder of Daptone Records, joined and produced the session with Smilan. On one hand, *Tension* is clearly a deeply personal tribute by the Hoodna Orchestra to iconic Mulatu Astatke, but at the same time the recordings emit a remarkable amount of chemistry, and together they have created an essential addition to Mulatu's rich discography that charts new directions in his Ethio-jazz trajectory and provides the Hoodna Orchestra with their strongest album to date.

TRACKLISTING

01. Tension (4:57)
02. Major (3:53)
03. Hatula (5:47)
04. Yashan (7:18)
05. Delilah (4:56)
06. Dung Gate (4:07)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethio-jazz pioneer **Mulatu Astatke** joins the **Hoodna Orchestra**, Tel Aviv's number one Afro funk collective, melding his enchanting vibraphone playing with their brass heavy force across seven original compositions.
- Produced by and featuring **Dap-King Neal Sugarman**, the results are gritty, yet majestic, soulful and uplifting.
- *Tension* is clearly a deeply personal tribute by the Hoodna Orchestra to iconic Mulatu Astatke, and the recordings emit a remarkable amount of chemistry.

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