



NOEL KELEHAN QUINTET Ozone

Label

OUTERNATIONAL SOUNDS

Format

LP

Catalog Number

OTR 019LP

UPC

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Store Price

\$24.79

Release Date

05/10/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - K - JAZZ



DESCRIPTION

Long sought-after by those in know, this essential Irish jazz album finally gets a vinyl reissue on Outernational Sounds. Fully licensed from producer **John D'Ardis**, remastered at Abbey Road from the original tapes, and with lacquers cut at Dubplates and Mastering, the **Noel Kelehan Quintet's** stunning 1979 **Ozone** is presented with unseen photographs of the band and commentary from original band members. Featuring moody, modal jazz of the first order, subtle and original composing and world-class playing, **Ozone** was the creation of Ireland's most respected jazz composer and musician, pianist **Noel Kelehan** (1935-2012). The only small-group album under his name, and arguably the first ever Irish jazz LP, **Ozone** was a landmark recording, but it was far from Kelehan's only achievement. Born in Dublin, Kelehan had studied music from an early age. From the mid-1950s he worked at state-broadcaster Radio Éireann, and from the early 1960s he fronted Dublin's first be-bop unit, the **Jazz Heralds**. A busy professional career saw him compose for numerous Irish pop stars, arrange and conduct many of Ireland's Eurovision entries, and even contribute string arrangements to **U2's** *Unforgettable Fire* LP. But jazz was Kelehan's first passion, and he never stopped playing in both small modernist units and composing for his own big band. The late 1970s saw him fronting the Noel Kelehan Quintet, alongside drummer **John Wadham**, saxophonist **Keith Donald**, bassist **Frank Hess**, and trumpeter **Mick Nolan**. Playing weekly in Dublin for several years, they opened for visiting stars including **Dollar Brand** and the **Ronnie Scott Orchestra**, and eventually played a two-week residency at Ronnie Scott's in London. Though Kelehan had recorded a big-band LP of traditional Irish songs arranged as easy jazz in 1970, **Ozone** was his first album of modern jazz. Released on John D'Ardis's independent Cargo imprint and press on blue vinyl, it featured original compositions such as the deep collectors cut "Spon Song," subtle Latin flavors on "Spacer's Delight" and a beautiful modal arrangement of the traditional Irish air "Castle of Dromore." A legendary recording in Ireland, **Ozone** reflected Kelehan's keen appreciation of classic quintet-era **Miles**, with touches of the cerebral fusion of **Ian Carr** and the arranging genius of **Neil Ardley**. Not just a landmark Irish jazz set, **Ozone** is a lost classic of European jazz more widely.

TRACKLISTING

01. Castle of Dromore
02. Spon Song
03. One For Willie
04. Spacer's Delight
05. I Only Have Time Time To Say I Love You
06. Triers Not Fliers

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Noel Kelehan Quintet's** 1979 LP **Ozone** is a landmark Irish jazz set and a lost classic of European jazz more widely.
- Featuring **Noel Kelehan**, drummer **John Wadham**, saxophonist **Keith Donald**, bassist **Frank Hess**, and trumpeter **Mick Nolan**.
- Features original compositions such as the deep collectors cut "Spon Song," subtle Latin flavors on "Spacer's Delight" and a beautiful modal arrangement of the traditional Irish air "Castle of Dromore."
- **Ozone** is presented with unseen photographs of the band and commentary from original band members.

Press Contact: publicity@forcedexposure.com

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FORCED EXPOSURE

60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321
fe@forcedexposure.com