

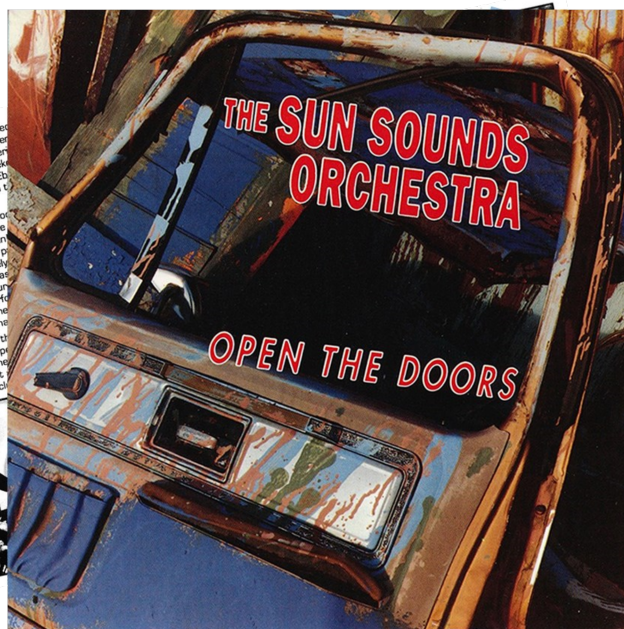
Happy Birthday!

EASTLAWN RECORDS

In the ten years since R.J. Spangler and Rick Steiger organized the 10-piece jazz orchestra & dance band on Detroit's east side, an incredible series of political events has brought the music of South and West Africa to America, so that now it is fairly common to hear the sounds of Hugh Masekela, Ibrahim (Dollar Brand), Fela Anikulapo Kuti, King Sunny Ade, Commander Ebo Taylor, and other African composers and music-makers here in Detroit.

The hard-swinging versions of mbaqanga, township jazz, and other music from South Africa introduced to Detroiters by the Sun Messengers those years ago are now part of the repertoire of the many fine young Detroit musicians who have grown up close to the hearts of the Sun Messengers as the band has grown into an immensely popular group. The Sun Messengers as the band has grown into an immensely popular group. The Sun Messengers as the band has grown into an immensely popular group.

Now we are blessed with this splendid recording of eight of the Sun Messengers' most popular songs, arranged by the band's leader, R.J. Spangler. The album includes saxophonist James O'Donnell, Larry Lamb, trumpeters James O'Donnell, Larry Lamb, and percussionist Steve Morris. This extremely hip 13-piece jazz ensemble attacks its well-chosen African charts—arranged for the Sun Sounds Orchestra by Steiger and Paxton—with soul, intelligence, and emotional abandon, delivering a program of sunny, abandon, delivering a program of sunny,



Disc 1
"Townscape" 3:58 (A. Ibrahim, ASCAP)
"Townscape" 3:12 (M. Masekela, ASCAP)
"Townscape" 4:07 (H. Masekela, ASCAP)
"Townscape" 4:08 (H. Masekela, BMI)
"Townscape" 4:00 (A. Slinga, ASCAP)
"Townscape" 6:15 (F. Kuti, BMI)
"Townscape" 4:28 (R. Steiger)
Produced by R.J. Spangler
Co-ordination: Frank Bach
Arrangement: Frank Bach
Music: Kuti and John Fikoury
of the arrangements, and my friends, Doug Haliday
Craig, and Kim Hewitt (from Chicago)—Frank Traum
Traum, PH.D.
In our mailing list, please contact:
Eastlawn Compact Discs & Cassettes
Box 36487, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
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Nov. 30, 2018

Today is arguably the 30th anniversary of Eastlawn Records as the release party for our first product, the album "Open The Doors" by the Sun Sounds Orchestra introduced the Eastlawn label to the "world."





Nov. 30, 2018

Held at the legendary Sully's bar in Dearborn, Michigan on November 30, 1990, with Joseph Fakhoury manning the cashbox, Messers RJ Spängler, Rick Steiger, John Tbone Paxton, James Odonnell, Mark Kieme, Walt Szymanski, Kurt Krahne, Paul Carey Bauhof, Akunda Hollis, Jerome Spearman and Steve Morris "rocked the house." (Never to be forgotten, the ensemble included the late Lyman Woodard and Larry Lamb.)



1. "Sister Rosie" 3:58 (A. Ibrahim, ASCAP)
2. "Letter To Prospect Township" 3:12 (M. Makeba, ASCAP)
3. "Isangoma" 5:04 (B. Makeba, ASCAP)
4. "Special Branch" 4:07 (H. Masekela, BMI)
5. "Foyi-Foyi" 4:08 (H. Masekela, BMI)
6. "Ntyilo-Ntyilo" 4:00 (A. Silinga, ASCAP)
7. "Water No Get Enemy" 6:15 (F. Kuti, BMI)
8. "Deep Six" 4:28 (R. Steiger)

Executive Producer: Frank Traum • Produced by R.J. Spangler

Recorded at United Sound Studios, Detroit, MI, August 22 & 23, 1990 • Engineer: Mike Iacopelli

Package Design and Coordination: Frank Bach

Cover Art: Sculpture © 1990 Tyree Guyton • Cover and Inside Photos: Bill McNeece

Distribution Assistance: Mark Keime and Joseph Fakhoury

I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of Paul Bauhof on the arrangements, and my friends, Doug Halliday and Virginia Pino, and my uncle, Bud Spangler, for their inspiration on this project. —R.J. Spangler

Special thanks to Mrs. Emil Traum, Carolyn Traum Craig, and Kim Hewitt (hello Chicago!). —Frank Traum

In Memoriam: Emil F. Traum, PH.D.



To join our mailing list, please contact:
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EASTLAWN RECORDS

Nov. 30, 2018

In the ten years since R.J. Spangler and Rick Steiger organized the 10-piece Sun Messengers jazz orchestra & dance band on Detroit's east side, an incredible series of musical & political events has brought the music of South and West Africa to American and World ears, so that now it is fairly common to hear the sounds of Hugh Masekela, Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand), Fela Anikelapo Kuti, King Sunny Ade, Commander Ebenezer Ozey, and a host of fellow contemporary African composers and music-makers here in the USA and indeed all over the world.

The hard-swinging versions of *mbaqwana*, township jazz, and other modern musical forms from South Africa introduced to Detroiters by the Sun Messengers those many years ago—as part of a repertoire that contained equal parts of Sun Ra & Louis Jordan!—have remained close to the hearts of the many fine young Detroit musicians who have passed through the ranks of the Sun Messengers as the band has grown into an immensely popular urban dance squad that's been heard all over the country. While the band's book has continually expanded to include a wide range of musical styles centered on the dance floor, current and former members of the Messengers have periodically gotten together to perform under the banner of the **Sun Sounds Orchestra**, leaving their pop-oriented charts at home to concentrate instead on the more esoteric ancestral and Third World musics which originally brought them together.

Now we are blessed with this splendid recording of eight of the African selections from the **Sun Sounds Orchestra's** wide-ranging roots-music repertoire, featuring compositions by Ibrahim, Masekela, Fela, Miriam Makeba and others (plus a Steiger original, "Deep Six") performed by a stellar aggregation of present and past members of the Sun Messengers family. Current Messengers spotlighted here include saxophonists Rick Steiger and Mark Kieme, trombonist John Paxton, keyboardist Lyman Woodard, guitarist Paul Bauhof, drummer Jerome Spearman, and percussionists Akunda Hollis and R.J. Spangler; the alumni include saxophonist Larry Lamb, trumpeters James O'Donnell and Walt Szymanski, bassist Kurt Krahnke, and percussionist Steve Morris.

This extremely hip 13-piece jazz ensemble attacks its well-chosen African charts—arranged for the **Sun Sounds Orchestra** by Steiger and Paxton—with soul, intelligence, and emotional abandon, delivering a program of sunny,



spicy sounds which is both highly danceable and exciting to hear. Solo spots feature the fluid, deeply moving tenor saxophone of Larry Lamb ("Sister Rosie," "Isangoma," "Special Branch," "Water No Get Enemy"), Mark Kieme's dancing, darting alto saxophone ("Sister Rosie," "Ntyilo-Ntyilo," "Water No Get Enemy"), Walt Szymanski's brilliant trumpet work ("Isangoma," "Water No Get Enemy"), the bongos and congas of Akunda Hollis ("Letter To Prospect Township," "Deep Six"), and Motor City keyboard star Lyman Woodard's perfectly tailored piano and Hammond organ commentaries on the two Hugh Masekela numbers ("Special Branch," "Foyi-Foyi").

The four-man drum corps of Jerome Spearman, R.J. Spangler, Akunda Hollis and special guest Steve Morris locks together to lay down a thick yet elaborately detailed carpet of rhythm under the ensemble, buoyed throughout by the tasteful bass of Kurt Krahnke and Paul Bauhof's indispensable guitar. Long-time musical comrades Rick Steiger, John Paxton and James O'Donnell submerge their considerable improvisational powers in favor of the group image here, contributing impeccable section work and an overall generosity of spirit to the successful realization of the music selected for this important project.

With this recording **The Sun Sounds Orchestra** truly opens the doors to the music of their fellow artists from South and West Africa, paying their own brand of Detroit homage to these wonderful composers by accurately reproducing both the sound and the spirit of the music which has furnished them so much inspiration for so many years. Now we have it in our hands, ready to take into our ears, hearts and minds, and, dear friends, it's been well worth the wait. Enjoy!

—John Sinclair, *Blue Sensations*, WDET-FM, Detroit, September 14, 1990



Liner notes by John Sinclair.