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KARL EVANGELISTA'S APURA

BIO

Karl Evangelista **Apura** is a multi-generational improvised music project meant to explore the relationship between jazz-based musical improvisation and social transformation in an era of worldwide political upheaval.

Apura uses original composition and daring improvised sounds to tie the revolutionary music of the past to the activist music of the present day, touching on American, South African, and Filipino musical traditions.

Combining the strengths of legendary drummer Andrew Cyrille (in for the great Louis Moholo-Moholo) with firebrand pianist Alexander Hawkins (UK), experimental powerhouse Evangelista, and a host of top flight improvisers, **Apura** celebrates and advances the spirit of intercultural collaboration pioneered by the likes of the Brotherhood of Breath, Bay Area organization Asian Improv aRts, and Milford Graves's Dialogue of the Drums.

Guitarist and producer Evangelista named the project **Apura** after a Tagalog turn-of-phrase that translates, roughly, to "very urgent." Very Urgent (1968) was the title of an album by the Chris McGregor Sextet (the "Blue Notes"), a trailblazing band of South African musicians whose aim was to combat Apartheid through the power of sound. The music that **Apura** makes some 50 years later seeks to tap into that record's primordial energy, insisting that the struggle for equality, justice, and musical freedom remains unfinished.

PERSONNEL

US: Andrew Cyrille - drums, Karl Evangelista - guitar, Alexander Hawkins - piano OR Lisa Mezzacappa - bass, Francis Wong - saxophone

Europe: Andrew Cyrille - drums, Karl Evangelista - guitar, Alexander Hawkins - piano, Trevor Watts - saxophone

DISCOGRAPHY

Apura! (Astral Spirits, 2020) - <https://apura.bandcamp.com/>

To set up interviews with Karl, request additional information, or inquire about any live or livestreamed performances, please contact Karl at karladevangelista@gmail.com.



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PRESS QUOTES (REVIEWS OF *APURA! on Astral Spirits*)

Up-and-Comers of the Year: Karl Evangelista (Guitar)
Debuts of the Year: *Apura!*
New York City Jazz Record, Best of 2020

“...this is one of those superb projects, where a musician like guitarist Karl Evangelista is able to simultaneously collaborate with and pay tribute to living legends in the free improvisation community... *Apura!* is another modern classic, sure to sit alongside the many records that inspired it, and hopefully the future albums it spawns.” -

Free Jazz Blog (Lee Rice Epstein)

“All four musicians are master improvisers and since each one has so much creative spirit & ideas to draw from, everyone finds ways to weave so many fascinating streams of interaction and solos. There is a sense of calm at the center here, as if no one is in a rush to go anywhere, just to converse and create. Improv disc of the year?!? No doubt!” -

Downtown Music Gallery (Bruce Gallanter)

“An overarching theme of freedom emerges from *Apura!* – freedom that is joyous but does not come easily... the quartet plays with a lot of variables – old and new, tight and loose, tension and release – to form a compelling and enjoyable set. Strong recommendation.” -

Avant Music News (Mike Borella), **Selection: Best Albums of 2020**

“...this supergroup exploits the advantages of combining old school free jazz with new school free jazz. Evangelista is often that guy from the 21st century crashing a circa 1966 ESP-Disk recording session, setting up a lot of intrigue that puts this music in a place all its own.” -

Something Else! Reviews (S. Victor Aaron)

“[Evangelista] wrings a plethora of sounds from the electric guitar, touching on timbres less commonly heard in this context: soft-edged swells, rock growls, brittle pick-work and soaring feedback... When Evangelista is locked into a moment, he’s a big presence.” -

The Wire (Daniel Spicer)

“While the two older British jazz giants are a very welcome presence, some of the album's most compelling sounds might well come from the mix of Evangelista's guitar and Hawkins' piano – both instruments that have a very compelling way of making sharp sounds together, really finding the right pace and tone, with a sense of sympathy that really makes the album shine.” -

Dusty Groove

“this guitar-led quartet has delivered a double CD of can’t-miss avant-jazz.” -

OSMR (Kevin Press)

“a sophisticated album of exemplary collective improv.” -

SquidCo

“Immerse yourself immediately. Give thanks too.” -

Marlbank

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