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Smooth, slow, steady shimmer



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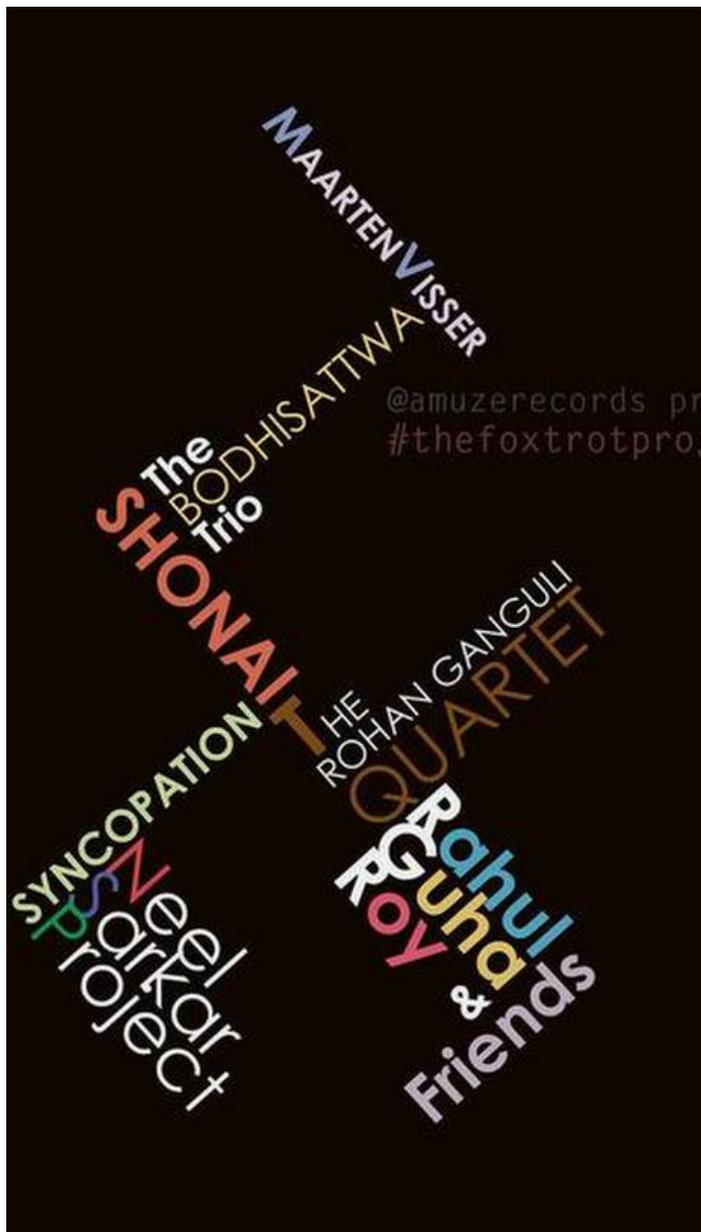
Artist: Various ArtistsAlbum: The Foxtrot Project V2

Kolkata's jazz scene got a spot of representation when the first volume of The Foxtrot Project was released by new(ish) label Amuze Records, but the battle for the spotlight is obviously a constant one in India's alternative fairground, where every genre has something eye-catching on offer.

Amuze Records have laboured on to be a voice counted, that too from a gig-parched city like Kolkata, somewhat among the most neglected cities despite having tons of talent across genres. In the case of Amuze Records, they've shone the spotlight on jazz, blues and singer-songwriter talents over the last few years.

But it all started with The Foxtrot Project, which explains their move to work on a second volume of finger-snapping, danceable jazz (which explains the album's title) as well as the odd-timed experimental kinds of jazz and blues from across the country. They lead with the friendlier but still heavy stylings of Delhi's Syncopation, on 'Homegrown', followed by the bright-eyed summer jam 'Chasing Clouds' by veteran singer-songwriter Rahul Guha Roy and Friends.

Taking up three tracks and a major attraction is the Rohan Ganguli Quartet's bluesy jazz work - with the smooth 'King of Summer', staying at a slow and steady tempo on the shimmering 'Purple', and getting even



mellower when they bring out the bittersweet ‘Till We Meet Again’ towards the end of the compilation.

Mind-benders The Bodhisattwa Trio, who featured on the first edition of the compilation, are dark and pulsating as they’re best known to do, almost picking up where they left off from their 2016 album *Heart of Darkness*, on the murky ‘Convergence’.

But that’s not even where *Foxtrot Project V2* gets weird. Maarten Visser experiments with a flute in the most raw and primal way on two tracks, ‘Sop’ and ‘Bari’. It is noisy, it is unexpected, so it may not be for everyone. On the opposite end of the spectrum, We’re introduced to Kolkata trio Shonai a bit late in the album, but their groovy piano-led tunes add a funky touch to *Foxtrot Project V2* with ‘Walking on Air’ and a tribute to late piano legend Carlton Kitto with the sombre but gratitude-filled ‘An Ode to Mr. Kitto’.

There is plenty more to take up headspace from *Foxtrot Project V2*, including the soulful folksy jam ‘Niffari’ by Neel Sarkar Project, the sublime second turn by Syncopation on ‘Thin Lines’, the lullaby-esque enchanting tune ‘Neon’ by Neel Sarkar Project that is a perfect centrepiece to the compilation’s aim of presenting a diverse sound.



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