

Sha's Banryu: Chessboxing Volume One (2008, Ronin Rhythm Records 007)

CH Release: 22. April 2008

Distributor: MV

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'Moon and its clouds always guiding me through a life of lives...'
(lyrics from 012)

'He wails in on alto sax, like a banshee trying to charm a cobra.'
Dan McClenaghan at allaboutjazz.com about Sha.

"R'n'B', Minimalfunk, Ambient", is Sha's (*1983) answer to the question about influences on his music. Isa Wiss (vocals), Mik Keusen (piano), Thomas Tavano (bass) und Julian Sartorius (drums) have been working with him in his band Banryu since 2004 and with 'Chessboxing Volume One' are now presenting their first album. Sha conveys the meaning of the Japanese band name 'Banryu' as follows: "Banryu, the dragon ready for jumping, lets everything come up and roll by, while not losing its tension and posture at any moment and ready to strike anytime..."

All the pieces of music were composed by Sha during the past few years, the lyrics of the first song being made up by Isa Wiss. They are titled with numbers only, and their poetic and energetic message unfolds with their sound, form and groove.

During the past years, Sha has gained a considerable amount of international experience playing bass and contrabass clarinets, especially with Nik Bärtsch's Ronin but also with Mik Keusen's Blau. With his own band, he shows additional facets to his art of making music and plays more frequently alto sax and the Asian khen in addition to the bass clarinets.

With the description 'Volume One', Sha announces, with that ironic seriousness typical of him, that musical chessboxing could become a future discipline.

Text: Kim Longin, Ronin Rhythm Records

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1. 012	05:10
2. 050	05:09
3. 030	11:37
4. 042	11:18
5. 031	06:14
6. 044	09:56
7. 045	07:00
TOTAL	56:24

All music composed by Sha, lyrics by Isa Wiss, arranged by Sha and Banryu, Album produced by Sha
Recorded by Hanspeter Ehrsam at Radiostudio Zürich May 2007

Mixed and Mastered by Andi Pupato and Sha

Executive produced by Peter Bürlü DRS 2, Stadt and Kanton Bern, Urs Haslebacher

Photography by Martin Möll, Cover Design by Marc Beekhuis, Publishing by Ronin Rhythm Productions

International press about Sha:

"Sha takes alto saxophone solos of the most outspoken sort."

Nils Jacobson www.popmatters.com USA

"Sha brillierte durch ein klanglich stupendes Solo auf der imposanten Kontrabass-Klarinette."

Ueli Bernays NZZ CH

"Sha's bass clarinet haloed everything in mysterious ambient soundwashes"

Stuart Nicholson The Observer UK

"Whenever the monosyllabically named Sha steps into the spotlight, the reed player evokes the modal improvisations of musicians like John Coltrane and Jan Garbarek."

Brent Burton Washington City Paper USA

"Multi-reedist Sha is essential to the Ronin experience. He plays mostly bass and contrabass clarinets, and his contribution is by and large almost subliminal: low rumbles and distance groans that fill in the open spaces in tight textures. But on "Modul 45" he wails in on alto sax, like a banshee trying to charm a cobra."

Dan McClenaghan www.allaboutjazz.com USA

Concerts:

25.04. Jazz in Sarnen, Juko Pavillon

28.04. Bazillusclub Zürich

01.05. Cargobar Basel

02.05. Sonarraum Progr Bern

22.4. Interview with Sha on DRS 2 for „Jazzaktuell“

More information:

www.banryu.ch

www.myspace.com/mybanryu

www.roninrhythmrecords.com

'Chessboxing Volume One' ist the seventh release of the label Ronin Rhythm Records, a platform for a new creative music between New Minimal, Funk and Ritual Groove Music.

Biographies:

- sha:** bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, altosax, khen, composition
born: 1983
studies: don li, nik bärtsch, bänz oester, sujay bobade, nat su
bands: nik bärtsch's mobile, nik bärtsch's ronin, mik keusen blau
discography: 'hans' zimouns momental (ammoniac redcords 2000)
'aer' nik bärtschs mobile (ronin rhythm records 2004)
'rea' nik bärtschs ronin (ronin rhythm records 2004)
'blau' blau (tonus-music records 2005)
'stoa' nik bärtsch's ronin (ecm-records 2006)
'holon' nik bärtsch's ronin (ecm-records 2008))
festivals & concerts: jazzfestival portland (USA), jazzfestival san francisco (USA)
jazzfestival vancouver (CAN), traumzeit duisburg (D), jazzfestival novara (I), north sea jazz (NL), berlin jazzfest (D), london jazzfestival (UK), motives festival (B), jazzfestival saalfelden (A), jazzfestival stuttgart (D), enjoy jazz (D), factory festival (F), jazzfestival montreal (CAN), cully jazz, jazznojazz zürich, stanser musiktage, jazzfestival willisau
- isa wiss** vocals, *1978
studies: 2005 master of arts in music at the Musikhochschule Luzern, studies with susanne abbühl and lauren newton
bands: beginning to end with christy doran, dashes with marco agovino, nacktmull, schlafes schwestern, schnozgroup, steinboldt, ingupin
- mik keusen** piano, *1977
studies: 2004 master of arts in music at the Musikhochschule Luzern. studies with chris wiesendanger and hans feigenwinter
bands: mik keusen blau, davis-keusen-sartorius-trio
discography: 'zimoun na feat. don li and philipp schaufelberger' (tonus-music, 2004)
'mik keusen - BLAU' - blau (tonus-music, 2005)
'prepared p' zimoun & mik keusen (leerraum, 2007)
'im schatte vo däm bärgh' – trummer (fazerecords 2007)
- thomas tavano** bass, *1978
studies: 2002 master of arts in music at the Musikhochschule Luzern, studies with heiri känzig and wolfgang zwiauer
bands: tratosphäre, octopus' call, reggies doo, blackfridge
- julian sartorius** drums, *1981
studies: 2006 master of arts in music at the Musikhochschule Luzern, studies with fab kuratli, norbert pfammater, pierre favre
bands: lila, erb_gut, jean-paul bourelly's motion, erb's veto, davis-keusen-sartorius-trio
discography: 'cut motion' - jean-paul bourelly (jgotmangos, 2007)
'lila' – lila (unit-records, 2007)
'im schatte vo däm bärgh' – trummer (fazerecords 2007)
'veto' christoph - erb's veto (vetorecords 2007)
'sounds of lucerne' (altrisuoni 2007)
'i never ate that bird' - electric blanket (bussi records 2008)