

Gary Burton 4tet Revisited With Pat Metheny (2008)

Written by bluesever

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A mouthwatering reunion of a classic quartet. With Pat Metheny, Steve Swallow and Antonio Sanchez.

Way back in the 1960s, Gary Burton was one of a generation of young jazz trailblazers who embraced the rhythm and energy of rock music, creating music that spoke to a new audience worldwide. His ability to find great guitarists is the stuff of legends - the original quartet included Larry Coryell - John Scofield, Kurt Rosenwilk and the latest prodigy, Julian Lage, have all passed through the quartet's ranks.

And Pat Metheny.

In the mid 70s, Burton recognised the young guitarist's massive talent - as a member of the quartet, Metheny toured and recorded three albums for ECM before leaving to form his own band....and the rest of the story is that of perhaps the most prolific and admired musicians to emerge from the world of jazz. Gary Burton, of course, continues to create extraordinary soundscapes with his shimmering and intensely melodic vibraphone improvisations.

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The reunion of Burton and Metheny in the quartet setting that marked their first work together is positively mouth-watering. This is no trip into nostalgia, however - both artists are tirelessly inventive, and the music they will make together is sure to retain the freshness and invention that characterised their first meetings. What's more, the bass chair is occupied by one Steve Swallow, whose switch from acoustic to electric back in the 60s - as a charter member of the original Burton Quartet - caused many raised eyebrows amongst the jazz traditionalists of the day - and he remains one of the masters of the instrument. Antonio Sanchez, however, is today's find - Metheny's current drummer of choice, he's one of the most powerful drummers around.

In this special concert the shimmering sounds of Burton's vibraphone are re-united with Metheny's lyrical guitar solos and master bassist Steve Swallow in what promises to be one of this year's international jazz milestones. --- barbican.org.uk

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