



MILFORD GRAVES & BILL LASWELL

Space / Time • Redemption

TUM CD 040

01 *Eternal Signs* / 02 *Sonny Sharrock* / 03 *Another Space* /
04 *Autopossession* / 05 *Another time*

Milford Graves drums and percussion

Bill Laswell basses

All compositions by Milford Graves and Bill Laswell

International release: February 26, 2015

Space / Time • Redemption (TUM CD 040) is the first duo recording by the legendary drummer and percussionist **Milford Graves**, who first rose to the forefront of improvised music in the mid-1960s as a member of the *New York Art Quartet*, through his solo and duo percussion performances and in groups led by *Albert Ayler*, *Giuseppi Logan*, *Don Pullen* and *Sonny Sharrock*, among many others, and the equally incomparable bassist **Bill Laswell**, who is known for his unique electric bass artistry in groups like *Material*, *Massacre*, *Last Exit* and *Arcana*, for performing and recording with the likes of *Ginger Baker*, *Herbie Hancock*, *James "Blood" Ulmer* and *John Zorn* and for working as a producer on countless sessions ranging from new age or rock influences to world music and free improvisation.

On the five extended improvisations that comprise **Space / Time • Redemption**, Graves and Laswell, who have in recent years occasionally performed live as a duo at The Stone and other New York venues, jointly create a sound world all of their own. The album was produced by Bill Laswell and the recording took place at his studios in West Orange, New Jersey.

"Understanding the unique rhythmic thrust and fractured sonic patterns of Milford Graves's tribal matrix is like trying to synchronize raindrops. Time is lapsed, accelerated and finally erased. Time is that which ends," says Bill Laswell about Milford Graves. "For my part, I was probably subconsciously channeling recent experiences in Africa or childhood memories of sound and silence, long open spaces and endless distance. An unknown point of departure with no designated destination."

Milford Graves (b. 1941) was born and raised in the Borough of Queens in New York City, where he continues to live. He became deeply involved with New York's avant-garde or free jazz scene of the early 1960s and has since worked almost exclusively within this idiom. Early in his career, Graves performed with the likes of saxophonists *Giuseppi Logan* and *Albert Ayler*, pianists *Paul Bley* and *Don Pullen*, guitarist *Sonny Sharrock*, drummer *Andrew Cyrille* and percussionist *Sunny Morgan*, among many others. He also joined one of the key groups of the 1960s, the *New York Art Quartet*, with saxophonist *John Tchicai*, trombonist *Roswell Rudd*, poet *Amiri Baraka et.al.* In more recent years, Graves has performed with saxophonists *David Murray*, *John Zorn* and *Anthony Braxton*, among others. He has also performed and recorded with his own groups and as a solo artist.

Bill Laswell (b. 1955) moved from the Detroit area to New York City in the late 1970s and soon became an important part of the so-called Downtown scene centered around the East Village. His early groups included *The Zu Band* and *Material*, which combined rock influences with electronic experimentation and improvisation and often featured prominent guest artists. As a producer, Laswell may be best known for his collaborations with pianist *Herbie Hancock* that began with "Rockit" on the album *Future Shock*. Laswell has also produced countless other albums ranging from *Laurie Anderson* to *Mick Jagger*, from *Yoko Ono* to *Pharoah Sanders* and from the *Last Poets* to the Gnawa musicians of Morocco. Laswell's best known remix credit may be for *Panthalassa*, an album that features *Miles Davis's* music from his electric period. As a musician, Laswell has continued to lead and participate in a number of groundbreaking groups, including *Massacre*, the *Golden Palominos*, *Curlew*, *Last Exit*, *Praxis*, *Painkiller*, *Arcana* and *Method of Defiance*. He has also released two solo bass recordings.

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Press materials: <http://tumrecords.com/040-space-time-redemption/press>

Distribution (U.S.): City Hall Records; +1-415-457 9080; www.cityhallrecords.com

Distribution (Finland): Töölön Musiikkitukku Oy, Martti Heikkinen; +358-40-502 0104; sales@toolonmusiikkitukku.com



TUM Records is a Finnish record label that began operations in May 2003. TUM produces high-quality music recordings and selectively organizes concerts and events, such as the TUMfest in Helsinki. The focus of TUM is on improvised, jazz-based music, placing particular emphasis on free expression and the performing artists' own music. In addition to providing younger musicians with exposure and a musical platform, TUM promotes more experienced musicians whose work is not favored by the commercial trends of our time. TUM covers feature works by leading Finnish artists.

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