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Bio information: **ZEVIIOUS**

Title: **AFTER THE AIR RAID** (Cuneiform Rune 287)

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FILE UNDER: JAZZ / JAZZ-ROCK / PUNK-JAZZ / ELECTRIC JAZZ

"The music of Zevious shrewdly juxtaposes order and its opposite: structural intensity pushed to its breaking point in the most appealing way. These boys are brilliant and fearless." – Vijay Iyer

Zevious is a genre-bursting, out/electric/punk-jazz trio based in New York City. It consists of cousins **Mike Eber** on guitar and **Jeff Eber** on drums, and **Johnny DeBlase** on bass. Zevious' sound is equally influenced by the improvisational approach of contemporary jazz artists **Vijay Iyer** and **Ben Monder**, polymetric metal of bands like **Meshuggah**, and vintage jazz and rock by such jazz fusion groups as **Mahavishnu Orchestra** and avant-progressive/Rock in Opposition bands like **Magma**. Songs wind through odd-metered, groove-laden landscapes that morph into brooding, reflective passages. Interspersed with edgy, hard-riffing contrapuntal guitar and stop-on-a-dime breaks, such tunes tread treacherous sonic grounds and reveal Zevious' ability to shred. Zevious is one of the most distinctive and aggressive genre-defiant/fusion bands in the burgeoning punk-jazz movement, a 21st century update on the compositional ferocity of bands like **Fred Frith's Massacre**, **Ronald Shannon Jackson's Decoding Society**, and **James Blood Ulmer's Music Revelation Ensemble**.

Mike Eber and DeBlase met in 1999 while attending **Muhlenberg College** in Allentown, Pennsylvania and instantly hit it off musically. After graduating with music degrees, the two worked as freelance musicians in PA, playing together in several rock, funk, and jazz projects, and gigging extensively in the Lehigh Valley Area, both in their own groups and in other's jazz projects. Eber eventually made his way to New York City in 2004, and in 2005, DeBlase moved to Philadelphia. Meanwhile, Mike's cousin Jeff, who had studied music at Philadelphia's **University of the Arts**, had been touring the US with his instrumental avant-progressive-metal group **Dysrhythmia** (who have numerous albums on **Relapse Records**). Coming off the road in 2005 after extensive touring, Jeff Eber settled in the New York area. Sharing an interest in starting a straight-ahead jazz project, Jeff, his cousin Mike, and DeBlase decided to form the group **Zevious**.

Zevious' first gig was at **Lounge Zen** in Teaneck, NJ during the summer of 2006. The early group used all-acoustic instrumentation – Mike Eber playing hollow body jazz guitar, DeBlase playing upright bass, and drummer Jeff Eber keeping everything swinging. The band performed at numerous jazz clubs. Deblase, who would travel from Philly to rehearse and perform with Zevious, moved to NYC in 2007. In August 2007 the trio went into the studio and began recording its self-titled debut CD, **Zevious**, which it self-released in 2008. **Zevious** showcased the band's early, acoustic, more traditional jazz-based approach, featuring knotty jazz compositions and technical soloing. Sold at their gigs and used to obtain numerous additional shows, **Zevious'** debut CD helped establish the band's reputation on the East Coast's live music scene.

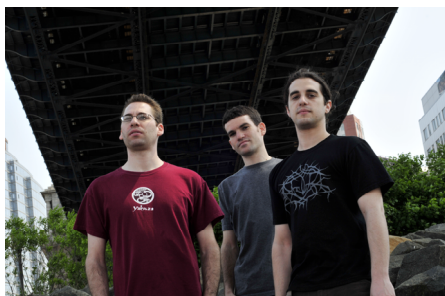
Shortly after **Zevious'** release, by the beginning of 2008, the band began developing a new, more electric and more radically genre-defiant sound that had been incubating since its first recordings. Mike Eber ditched his jazz guitar for a Telecaster, DeBlase replaced his upright with an electric bass, and both picked up distortion pedals and cranked them up. Zevious began to forge a unique compositional style, combining progressive rock grooves, technical metal, structured group improvisation, and complex song forms with a more conventional jazz sound. The band began playing numerous shows in New York City and across the northeastern US, in a wide variety of venues ranging from art spaces in Brooklyn, to dilapidated concrete shacks in central Virginia, to more mainstream rock and jazz clubs, proving itself to be comfortable and ferocious in any live setting. Zevious often shared the stage with other independent acts who can not be stylistically pigeonholed, such as **Faun Fables**, **Circles**, **Scurvy**, **STATS**, and **Kevin Hufnagel**.

After the Air Raid is Zevious' second album and its first release on **Cuneiform**. The culmination of nearly two years of composing and performing, the CD features music that is carefully crafted and exquisitely yet aggressively played. The music winds through peaks and valleys of odd-metered bass and drum grooves, contrapuntal guitar vamps, poly-metric riffing, and hard hitting drum workouts. Coupled with more subtle, introspective, and often brooding segments, **After the Air Raid** is a record with lasting depth. Beautifully and clearly recorded by **Colin Marston** (of **Behold...the Arctopus**), **After the Air Raid** is masterfully presents Zevious' powerful live sound.

Zevious will support the release of **After the Air Raid** with extensive touring in the US and beyond, in jazz, rock and art venues.

For more information, visit Zevious online at: www.zevious.com & www.myspace.com/zevioustrio

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS:



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