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Bio information: **LED BIB**

Title: **BRING YOUR OWN** (Cuneiform Rune 314)

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FILE UNDER: JAZZ

"London quintet Led Bib is one of a succession of new millennial British bands, heralded by the perversely-named Acoustic Ladyland...who are tearing up the jazz rule book with an enthusiasm which renders the description "iconoclastic" inadequate.

...the band continues its mission of taking jazz by the scruff of the neck, punching it in the face and watching the blood flow. ...paradigms need regularly to be challenged and subverted, lest atrophy set in." – Chris May, *All About Jazz*

"We need bands like Led Bib to make the world safe for dangerous music." – *Observer Music Monthly*

"Proof that groovy dirty jazz isn't just the preserve of downtown New Yorkers" – *BBC Radio 3*

"...raw collisions of free jazz, avant funk, brooding sax and sheer noise...Best listened to with the volume up and the neighbors warned...this infectiously witty group...sounds like a gale of fresh air." – John Fordham, *The Guardian*

Rock? Jazz? The sound made by a band's worth of plugged-in instruments clattering down the stairs? UK skronk-jazz-rock-punk-whatever quintet **Led Bib** bring all of these influences to the table in their fifth album, *Bring Your Own*, released on **Cuneiform**. Its previous album and 1st Cuneiform release, *Sensible Shoes*, resonated loudly across Europe when it became one of a mere dozen recordings – and the *only* jazz recording – nominated in 2009 from more than 3,500 submissions for the prestigious **Barclaycard Mercury Prize**, and thus officially recognized as one of the UK's 12 best '**Albums of the Year**'. The Mercury Prize nomination brought the band of twenty-somethings mass media exposure, a torrent of high-exposure gigs (including tv and radio performances on **Channel 4 TV's "News with Jon Snow"**, **BBC Radio 4 "Front Row"**, and **BBC 2 Mercury show**), a synchronization deal with **Faber Music & Media** for film, TV and synch licensing, and massive press coverage. It also generated a fair amount of controversy among those who preferred their jazz to be a bit more refined and genre-exclusive, and their popular music tuneage to be predictable and routine. But the exposure recruited an army of new fans for Led Bib's music – and contributed to a growing mass conversion of young rock and pop listeners to the UK's New Millennium jazz. As the *Sunday Tribune* noted: "For those of a rock'n'roll persuasion, who...find most jazz a little too polite, London-based anarcho-musicalists Led Bib are like a wake-up call from an air-raid siren."

As Led Bib's first release following their 2009 Mercury Prize nomination, *Bring Your Own* is one of the most anticipated jazz releases of 2011. Led Bib and this new album are the cover story of the February 2010 issue of *Jazzwise*, the UK's biggest-selling jazz magazine and winner of Jazz Publication of the Year at the 2010 Parliamentary Jazz Awards. On 28th February, Led Bib will launch *Bring Your Own* in a high-profile concert at the **Purcell Room** in London's renown **Southbank Centre**, the world's largest art center. Following the CD launch, Led Bib will tour the UK in February and March, and tour Europe in April and May.

On *Bring Your Own*, Led Bib continue to blast the cobwebs out of jazz's dusty corridors, and to warmly – and rambunctiously – invite all inside. Those who know the band will recognize Led Bib's trademark hooky melodies and idiosyncratic improvisation on this album. But while its familiar style and raw energy remains on *Bring Your Own*, Led Bib has never sounded so confident or accomplished, so genre – and definition – defying. Here, eastern melodies tumble into rock and roll grooves, there jazz phrases open up pastoral overtures, and elsewhere crescendos rise and disappear into whirring kraut-rock wormholes. Led Bib's lineup on *Bring Your Own* includes bandleader **Mark Holub** – drums, **Liran Donin** – upright and electric bass, **Toby McLaren** – Rhodes, and **Chris Williams** and **Pete Grogan** – on alto saxophones – the same lineup that the band has had since its beginning. Led Bib has been playing together intensively for 7 years, and that chemistry shows. There's an electricity here, a 'group mind' built out of a confidence in each of the member's playing that means risks can be taken and their unique soundworld cracked open and reassembled time and time again. The band has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 2003 as Holub's college music project!

Bring Your Own was recorded by **PJ Harvey** producer/collaborator **Head** during the summer of 2010 at a residential studio in the Wales. Ensconcing themselves in the countryside (rather than London's frantic backdrop) influenced the album's music. Says bandleader Mark Holub: "I had no real preconceptions going into the studio of what we would actually produce. We talked a lot about space in the sound, and I think we have achieved it. While the sound is at times very dense, the music always has enough space to flip into a new direction. What's been created is an album that documents everything we've ever done over the past 7 years, a culmination of all of the different directions we've gone in, but with the sound pushed in new and exciting place. The tracks are concise without sacrificing the integrity of the improvising." With *Bring Your Own*, Led Bib has created a record to rival its last. Not just an album of 2011, it also has the markers of a jazz album of all time.

Bring Your Own should appeal to fans of *all* good popular music, regardless of genre. Described by critics as 'the future of jazz', the band draws references from across the popular musical spectrum – from Captain Beefheart and John Zorn to Pink Floyd and John Coltrane and artists far beyond. Jazz aficionados, drum and bass heads, and folk and pop fans alike populate the audiences at its live shows. In its newest recording, Led Bib creates a boundary-defying 21st Century jazz that embraces wide influences; welcomes listeners from across the musical spectrum to the world of new jazz, inviting both listeners and audiences to *Bring Your Own*.

For more information, please see:

www.ledbib.com - www.myspace.com/ledbib - www.facebook.com/ledbib

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS



Digital [High-Resolution / Color] versions of these images and MORE are available for download on www.cuneiformrecords.com in the "Press" section.

WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT LED BIB:

Stuart Nicholson writes about Led Bib's place in the music scene in *The Observer*

[*"Bold urban virtuosos who play down the 'j' word"*, *The Observer*, August 16, 2009]

"Sharp solos, dynamic drumming and slash-and-burn riffs - Led Bib strut their genre-defying music in a driven, inspired live show...they downplay the "j" word since most of their audience at Rough Trade East would probably jump out of the window at the mere mention of "jazz". But **whatever you want to call their music...it packs a powerful punch.** ...

This is engaging, urban, 21st-century music that has seen the band dubbed "the future of jazz". That is only partly true. Rather, their musical concept is the future of jazz because instead of the music being defined by the past, as much in people's minds as by ideologues like Wynton Marsalis, Led Bib show what it can become. Their attractiveness is in their openness to new lines of input. Pete Grogan is a northern soul freak while Chris Williams, who hails from Israel, adds sinewy, Middle Eastern melodic lines to his work. The whole band are into Metallica, while Holub, from New Jersey, is into Bob Dylan and the old downtown sounds of New York City jazz.

The result is music that's teeming with references, hand-holds that audiences can grab so the music doesn't pass them by. There's the energy of rock, but even rock, like jazz, has become a term too small to contain the music within it. Both terms are now limiting, leaving music free to break out of the rigid formatting... This is Led Bib music, and...the old nostrums of the punk and post-punk critics, who sneered at instrumental virtuosity, suddenly seemed out of date.

Their once-fashionable attack on musical accomplishment has meant two generations of fans growing up believing that the notion of a powerful sax solo or a non-processed rhythm track has become an abstract concept. Enter Led Bib, with powerful saxes and dynamic live drumming, and audiences find it exciting and new. ...in an ailing music business the underground music scene and bands like Led Bib are showing that Britain really has got talent."

Mark Holub, from an interview with Brent Keefe in *Drummer Magazine*:

[*"From Madison to Mercury"*, *Drummer Magazine*, January 2010]

"...Even with the Mercury nomination, some people will still think, 'That's the jazz one. No way I am listening to that!' And that's a shame as we're certainly not the only jazz group that may appeal to someone who is not really into jazz. We are a rocky jazz band as the biggest element of Led Bib is the improvisation. We use elements of rock but it's still jazz. Some people question if what we do is jazz, and whether they want to call it jazz or not is fine by me. It's a bit distressing...that after the 60s people stopped thinking of jazz being able to evolve." ..."



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LED BIB [cover feature], GARY HUSBAND, MEADOW, LIZZ WRIGHT, RHYTHMICA, BRAD MEHLDAU

The **February** issue of *Jazzwise*, the UK's biggest selling jazz monthly and winner of **Jazz Publication of the Year** at the **2010 Parliamentary Jazz Awards**, hits the streets on 27 January with blistering Mercury Prize-nominated firebrands **Led Bib** (pictured) on the cover. Back with a storming bass-heavy new album *Bring Your Own*, outspoken drummer and bandleader **Mark Holub** tells it like it is in a fired up interview that pulls no punches. ...

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