

Bio information: **ELTON DEAN/PAUL DUNMALL/TONY LEVIN/
PAUL ROGERS/ROSWELL RUDD/KEITH TIPPETT**

Title: "**BLADIK**" (Cuneiform Rune 92)
UPC code: [0 4577-50092-2 3]

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This record grew out of the 20 year old friendship of Elton Dean and Roswell Rudd, who had first met and performed together as members of Carla Bley's band, recording on her European Tour 1977 album. When Rudd began planning a European tour for Fall, 1996, he phoned Elton, who immediately started arranging several UK shows and planning this studio recording.

English jazz saxophone legend **Elton Dean** has played in numerous acclaimed bands over his 30 year career, including the Keith Tippett Group (1968-69), Soft Machine (1969-1972), Centipede (1971-72), Hopper/Dean/Tippett/Gallivan (1977-78), In Cahoots (1973-present) and many others. His discography as a band leader is extensive and as a band member, enormous. Silent Knowledge, his first US album as a band leader (featuring his current quintet), was released by Cuneiform in 1996 (Cuneiform Rune 83).

Famed U.S. trombonist **Roswell Rudd** first gained attention in the mid 60's for his radical and innovative free jazz performances with such groups as The New York Art Quartet, Archie Shepp, The Jazz Composer's Orchestra, Gil Evans, Steve Lacy and many others. Rudd is probably currently best known for his longstanding efforts re-evaluating the music of Herbie Nichols, fostering wider appreciation for and recognition of that composer's work.

The other four players on Bladik -- **Dunmall, Levin, Rogers and Tippett** -- also compose the English improvising quartet **Mujician**, which has three critically acclaimed releases on Cuneiform (The Journey [1992]; Poem About the Hero [1994]; Birdman [1996]). Each member of Mujician also has an extensive independent musical career and is involved in numerous side projects:

Pianist **Keith Tippett** was trained as a classical pianist. After moving to London in 1967, he came to prominence in the late 60's and early 70's with his 50 piece ensemble Centipede, with other groupings, and as a studio member of King Crimson from 1970-72. Tippett has since achieved recognition for his unique approach to solo piano, releasing numerous recordings individually and with groups.

Reed player **Paul Dunmall** was classically trained on clarinet and began playing professionally at age 17. In more than 20 years of performing Dunmall has worked with numerous musicians including Richard Thompson, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Alice Coltrane, Danny Thompson, John Stevens, The London Jazz Composer's Orchestra and others.

Bassist **Paul Rogers** is a self-taught musician; he turned professional upon moving to London in 1974. Since that time he has worked in both improvised and composed contexts with a large number of players including John Stevens, John Greaves, Mike Osbourne, Howard Riley, Evan Parker, Dennis Gonzalez, Paul Rutherford, Derek Bailey, Andrew Cyrille, Lol Coxhill, Alexander Von Schlippenbach, and John Zorn.

Percussionist **Tony Levin** is a self-taught musician who started studying drums and jazz music at age 13 and began working professionally at 17. Since the 1960's, Levin has performed and/or recorded with a huge number of musicians touring England, including Steve Lacy, Hank Mobley, Zoot Sims, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Art Farmer, Gary Burton, Joe Henderson, Johnny Griffin, Alan Skidmore, John Surman, Nick Evans, and Marc Charig.