



## JULIAN SIEGEL QUARTET

### Urban Theme Park

**Basho Records SRCD35-2** - release date **18<sup>th</sup> April 2011**  
(distributed in the UK by Proper Distribution 0870 444 0799)

*"Virtuoso post bop quartet" The Guardian*  
*"Entirely distinctive and very original" The Observer*  
*"A world class saxophonist" Jazz UK.*

Nottingham born, BBC Award-winning multi-reedist, composer and bandleader **Julian Siegel** is a genuinely world-class musician who has worked with the likes of Hermeto Pascoal, Andrew Hill, Django Bates, Kenny Wheeler, and Mike Gibbs. He is a founder-member of the influential UK Jazz-Rock quartet **Partisans** with guitarist/composer Phil Robson and since 2007 he has toured and recorded with the **Julian Siegel Trio** featuring U.S. improvising stars Joey Baron and Greg Cohen, while this his second release on Basho features his superlative quartet. His distinctive, imaginative but always warm sound and his broad tonal range, advanced harmonic ideas and fine compositions have drawn praise from such luminaries as Joe Lovano who described Siegel's trio with Baron and Cohen as "full of music and magic". Drummer Billy Hart praised his "great imagination". In addition, Siegel's Quartet are one of the top UK jazz acts (alongside Basho label mates Kit Downes Trio amongst others) who will tour Germany and Austria 14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>st</sup> March as part of the Brit-Jazz travelling-festival put together by Burkhard Hopper, former manager of the late Esbjorn Svensson. However, it is not just the international stars that are drawn to Siegel's playing. He is a revered figure for the younger generation too, appearing on Empirical's latest MOBO Jazz award winning album 'Out 'n' In' and was asked to produce trumpeter Richard Turner's 'Round Trip' band for their F-IRE Records debut.

His latest album **Urban Theme Park** has been a long time coming, a follow-up to his last masterful quartet album, 'Close Up', originally released in 2002 to rave reviews. With the Guardian newspaper hailing a "*leap forward*". The Times declaring that "*the writing marks Siegel out as a cut above the legions of aspiring sax heavyweights*" and the Birmingham Post noting that "*the music which bursts from this disc makes the tried and trusted instrumentation and tradition sing anew*". The interim period has seen Siegel record powerful equally statements with both Partisans and his Anglo-American trio as well as perform numerous festival and club shows with all his bands. However, he felt that it was now time to record with his quartet again, and especially with inspirational pianist **Liam Noble**, a presence that Siegel feels as vital to this project as his relationship with Robson is to Partisans. Friends since 1991 (when Siegel first moved to London), the music here is very much written with Noble in mind, the pianist's fluid touch and dazzling imagination perfectly complement Siegel's music and playing, and, with the powerhouse drummer **Gene Calderazzo** (a member of Partisans) on board, fireworks are guaranteed. The newest member, the bassist **Oli Hayhurst** rounds out the group perfectly, his deep groove dove-tailing perfectly with Noble and Calderazzo in what is unquestionably one of the UK's most dynamic, powerful quartets.

The music on **Urban Theme Park** echoes the freewheeling grooves of '70s Joe Henderson (a long term favourite of Siegel's) and the hard bop of Cedar Walton's 'Eastern Rebellion' quartet, but this is music always rooted in a very London sensibility, incubated in Dalston and the streets and clubs of London. The music moves between electro-acoustic trance and joyful, burning, 'straight-ahead' abandon. There is a nod to Joe Zawinul on the way, an acoustic quartet playing early-electric Miles and a celebration of the pianist John Taylor's joyful harmonies and lines (**One for J.T.**). Throughout the recording Siegel and his colleagues play with listener's expectations, from borrowings of form from Stravinsky's ballet music (**Game of Cards**) to twelve-tone saxophone rows over minimalist 'New-Wave' drones (**Drone Job**) and dancing West African drum grooves. A word too about the recording by **Curtis Schwartz** at his studio in Ardingly, not only does he have a full size American Steinway piano but his ability to really capture the music allows us to really feel and hear the music as the musicians intended. This 'Urban Theme Park' then is a home for Siegel's music and we all get to enjoy the ride!

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[www.bashorecords.com](http://www.bashorecords.com) [www.bashomusic.co.uk](http://www.bashomusic.co.uk) [www.juliansiegel.com](http://www.juliansiegel.com)

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## Urban Theme Park – tour dates

12th March **London** Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean Street,  
[www.pizzaexpresslive.com](http://www.pizzaexpresslive.com) 7pm, £15

NB: UK album launch and Brit-Jazz Week in Germany & Austria

### Brit-Jazz Week in Germany & Austria – tour dates

14 March <b>Dortmund</b> Domicile	<a href="http://www.domicil-dortmund.de">www.domicil-dortmund.de</a>
15 March <b>Köln</b> Stadtgarten	<a href="http://www.stadtgarten.de">www.stadtgarten.de</a>
16 March <b>Karlsruhe</b> Tollhaus	<a href="http://www.tollhaus.de">www.tollhaus.de</a>
17 March <b>Munich</b> Unterfahrt	<a href="http://www.unterfahrt.de">www.unterfahrt.de</a>
18 March <b>Berlin</b> A-Trane	<a href="http://www.a-trane.de">www.a-trane.de</a>
19 March <b>Hamburg</b> Birdland	<a href="http://www.jazzclub-birdland.de">www.jazzclub-birdland.de</a>
21 March <b>Innsbruck</b> Treibhaus	<a href="http://www.treibhaus.at">www.treibhaus.at</a>
22 March <b>Passau</b> Neues Theater	<a href="http://www.cafe-museum.de">www.cafe-museum.de</a>
24 March <b>Linz</b> Oxymoron	<a href="http://www.oxymoronlinz.org">www.oxymoronlinz.org</a>
25 March <b>Frankfurt</b>	<a href="http://www.brotfabrik.info">www.brotfabrik.info</a>

[www.britjazzweek.com](http://www.britjazzweek.com)

**Julian Siegel** reeds, **Liam Noble** piano (and synthesizer),  
**Oli Hayhurst** double bass and **Gene Calderazzo** drums

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