



VIRIDITAS

Featuring :

Saxophonist Ben Cohen, Bassist Ross Gallagher
and Drummer Deric Dickens



Viriditas, a 12th century latin word meaning spiritual fertility, greenness, and vitality aptly captures the vibe of this highly evocative saxophone trio. Led by saxophonist Ben Cohen, Viriditas combines jazz, blues, folk, and the avant garde into a hard grooving, free wheeling, adventurous sound, both immediately recognizable and wholly unique.

Saxophonist **Ben Cohen** will be releasing his debut album, **Viriditas**, on **July 15th**. **Viriditas** was formed the summer of 2014 as a vehicle to experiment with new sounds and forms in the context of a conventional saxophone trio. An interest in pushing the boundaries of the saxophone's harmonic capabilities has led Ben to extended techniques such as tuvan throat singing, multiphonics and playing multiple saxophones at once. These devices have helped fill out the often sparse palate of a saxophone trio, creating lush harmonies and textures. Compositionally, a deep love of the folk music from his native Tennessee along with the gritty sounds of the Delta Blues shaped the simple melodies and sparse harmonies heard throughout the record. "I'd been listening to a lot of Robert Johnson, Nirvana and Tuvan Folk Music and I started hearing these simple melodies in my head. I would bring them in to sessions with Ross and Deric and together we would shape them into loose structures, creating launching pads for group improvisation."

The opening track of **Viriditas**, "A Ramble" begins with a simple 3 note pattern repeated by the saxophone, leading to the bass coming in with a blues drenched melody. "The bass line on 'A Ramble' is an often used intervallic pattern found in Tuvan folk music," says Ben, "but it also is straight out of the blues. So I took the two and combined them. I think it is fascinating to see how much inherent crossover there is in folk music from all over the world."

'Child's Play' takes a schoolyard melody, turns it on it's head and serves it back as a slow grooving ballad. Experimental compositional elements such as tempo changes and the use of multiple saxophones played simultaneously by Cohen, take this track to some unexpected places. 'Mutt', one of the more energetic cuts, combines a hard hitting blues melody with counterpoint reminiscent of baroque music. "A lot of this album is about the juxtaposition of different styles to show how they are different, but also how they are related," says Ben, "'Mutt' is a piece I wrote to highlight the stark contrast of classical and blues styles, while showing how they can fit together in the narrative arc of a composition."

Viriditas is being released August 1st on vinyl, cd and as a digital download. It also marks the launch of a new record label, **Eschatology Records**. "Eschatology Records is a celebration of all the wild and varied music coming out of the Brooklyn underground creative music scene these days," says Ben. "I can't wait to use it as a platform to showcase some really wonderful projects."

Viriditas

Recorded by Jimmy Katz
Mixed by Dave Darlington at Bass Hits Studio
Mastered by Scott Hull at Masterdisk
Recorded at Steve Maxwell Vintage and Custom Drums in NYC

Eschatology Records

For more information visit: Bencohenmusic.com

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Ben Cohen is a Brooklyn based saxophonist and composer. After growing up in rural Tennessee, Ben went to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he studied with such luminaries as Jerry Coker and Donald Brown. After graduating, he moved to NYC where he continued his education under the tutelage of Ellery Eskelin. Now a regular on the Brooklyn creative music scene, Ben performs with Deric Dickens, Danny Fisher-Lochhead, John Merrit, Kenny Warren, Zach Clarke and many others. He leads his saxophone trio Viriditas and his record label Eschatology Records is poised to release a number of records this year.

Deric Dickens is a Brooklyn based percussionist and composer. Deric has performed numerous times with Robinella (Columbia Records), JaLaLa (Janis Siegel Manhattan Transfer), Donald Brown, Jerry Coker, Kirk Knuffke, and Jeff Lederer at various festivals. He currently leads his groups, Speed Date, Rocket #9, The Dickens Campaign, and Left Bomb Bay. Dickens was recently runner up in Drum Magazines 2014 Drummie awards in the Rising Star category.

Ross Gallagher is a Brooklyn based Bassist and composer. Ross has performed with Robert Rohe, Mark Helias, Ben Street, Robert Sadin, John Hollenbeck, Andrew Cyrille, Bill McHenry, Jorge Rossy, Andrew D'Angelo, Kenny Wollesen, Joe Henry, Marc Ribot & Hurray for the Riff Raff.

