

# SERIOUS

ANDY SHEPPARD

## Press Quotes

### On *Trio Libero* (ECM, 2012):

'This is an album of stately elegance and beauty....A truly gorgeous piece of music-making.  
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Jazzwise

This mix of spontaneity and familiarity infuses everything the trio play with improvisational tension, each player clearly having a firm grasp on the outline of each piece, but able to plot his own highly distinctive and original path within it. The resultant music incorporates not only Sheppard's great strengths – a sure ear for an affecting melody, a sculptural approach to his saxophones' sound, an ability to move seamlessly between freedom and structure – but also Benita's extraordinary versatility and Rochford's uncanny ability to choose precisely the right cymbal/skin stroke to push the music along and subtly embellish the band sound. ... Trio Libero's strength comes from the grace and elegance with which three utterly distinctive talents have been able to gel to form a unit that consistently lives up to its name. LondonJazz Blogspot

### On *Trio Libero* Performances, with Sebastian Rochford and Michel Benita:

'The trio cruised through a selection of the languid Latin drifters Sheppard has made his own, staccato postbop themes delivered with deceptive insouciance, a few computer-aided ambient explorations, and occasional solos from Benita and Rochford that were models of cool concision.' Guardian

'British sax maestro Andy Sheppard kicked off the UK's world-class Cheltenham Jazz Festival weekend with the first airing of his new outfit, Trio Libero. This special collaboration featuring drummer Sebastian Rochford and French bassist Michel Benita was a triumphant premiere, setting the bar high for the festival's ensuing acts.' JazzTimes

### On *Movements in Colour* (ECM, 2009):

'With his soft sound, delicate massaging of tonal minutiae, improvisational inventiveness and eclectic tastes, Andy Sheppard has long sounded like an ECM artist ... Sheppard's improvising style, in which he fits short phrases into grooves and heats them slowly, makes this album bloom on successive listenings. Some tracks are more impressionistic and textural, with tentative sax sketches unfolding over chordal hums or a violin-like guitar-sustain. Ballad themes such as *Ballarina* and *May Song* display both Sheppard's lyrical imagination and the melodic knack of his regular bandleader, Carla Bley.' \*\*\*\* Guardian

'One of ECM's most eminently accessible records, *Movements in Colour* demonstrates the beauty of simplicity, the appeal of modesty. It's deceptively difficult to create music that speaks on a broad, elemental level, and with *Movements in Colour* Sheppard has

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succeeded in creating an album of unassuming richness in texture, color and melodic depth.' All About Jazz

'A profound and uplifting grasp of the power of colour ... this is warm, upbeat, yet reflective music beautifully played and recorded.' \*\*\*\* Jazzwise

"Beautifully played, easy on the ear, international jazz-folk fusion' Independent