

Bio information: **PHIL MILLER/ IN CAHOOTS**
Title: **ALL THAT** (Cuneiform Rune 181)

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FILE UNDER: JAZZ/ ROCK/ FUSION

Featuring great players from the worlds of both jazz and rock, **In Cahoots** is one of the best groups producing new jazz fusion in the U.K. today. It was formed in 1982 by composer and guitarist **Phil Miller** as a vehicle for his own compositions, jazz-inflected tunes notable for their unique melodies, intricacy, passages for passionate soloing, and expert use of rhythm. **Cuneiform Records** released In Cahoots' first lp recordings in 1987: 4 tracks on Phil Miller's lp **Cutting Both Ways** (1989 Cuneiform CD reissue). Cuneiform is now proud to release In Cahoots' 8th CD, called **All That**. Showcasing Miller's sublime compositions and contributions by others, and absolutely stellar playing by all involved, *All That* is one smoking disc, quite possibly the band's best to date. It is essential listening for followers of Phil Miller's work as well as all fans of fusion and British jazz.

Phil Miller is a well-known figure in British jazz-rock in general, and particularly in the Canterbury School, a well-known sub-genre of progressive rock. He began composing and playing guitar in the late 1960s and first joined **Delivery**, a band to which his brother Steve and childhood friend Pip Pyle belonged. Delivery released the lp **Fool's Meeting** (1970 B&C; 1999 Cuneiform CD reissue) before breaking up, some members then forming an improv band, **DC & the MBs**. In late 1971, Miller joined **Matching Mole**, led by noted drummer and vocalist Robert Wyatt. The group recorded two lps during its lifetime, *Matching Mole* and *Little Red Record*, and Cuneiform released two CDs of their previously unreleased archival live recordings in recent years, *Smoke Signals* (2001) and *March* (2002). After the break-up of Matching Mole, Phil formed **Hatfield & The North** with Dave Stewart, Richard Sinclair, and Pyle. An exceedingly popular band, Hatfield cut 2 successful lps for Virgin in the mid 70's; *Hatfield & The North & The Rotter's Club*. Hatfield & The North later evolved c.1975 into **National Health** (with Dave Stewart and Alan Gowen) with whom Phil recorded *National Health*, *Of Queues & Cures*, and *D.S. Al Coda*.

Miller founded **In Cahoots** in 1982 with a lineup consisting of **Richard Sinclair** (bass), **Pip Pyle** (drums), **Elton Dean** (sax), and **Peter Lemer** (keyboards). The active quartet gigged around London, toured Holland and France, and recorded for BBC's Radio 3 Jazz Today. In 1985, Hugh Hopper replaced Sinclair on bass. This new lineup recorded the tracks on 1987's *Cutting Both Ways* and performed at the 1987 **Bracknell Jazz Festival**.

1987/88 marked a major lineup change for the band, with **Steve Franklin** replacing Lemer (who left to rejoin Paraphernalia) on keyboards, and then **Fred Baker** replacing Hopper on bass. In 1988, Reckless released In Cahoots' recordings on the lp *Split Seconds*. The following year, the band released a live album *In Cahoots Live 86-89*, on France's Mantra label. Shortly after, Franklin left the band, which resumed touring with no keyboards.

In Cahoots became a sextet in the 1990s, with Lemer rejoining in 1991 and trumpet player **Jim Dvorak** coming on board. The band toured Japan (1991) and later Great Britain, and released several CDs on Miller's own label, Crescent Discs, including *Live in Japan* (1993), *Recent Discoveries* (1993; without Lemer) and *Parallel* (1996). They gigged extensively, opening for popular progressive band **Caravan** in London (1996), touring Holland and England (1997), touring France (spring 1998), and later performing various shows in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. In 1998, Phil's brother Steve died of cancer. The band recorded its next CD, *Out of the Blue* (2001) as a tribute to Steve Miller. Pip Pyle then left the band to form his own band, **Bash**.

In Cahoots' first live performance with their new drummer, **Mark Fletcher**, was at 2003's **Progman Cometh Festival** in Seattle. It was a brilliant performance, and Cuneiform Records signed them on site. Released here by Cuneiform, In Cahoots' *All That* features the lineup of Miller (guitar and synth guitar), Lemer (keyboards), Dvorak (trumpet), Dean (alto & melody sax, and saxello), Baker (bass guitar), and Fletcher (drums). It is *all that* a jazz fusion fan could hope for, and much more.

In Cahoots continues to perform frequently in England and outside. It has performed at festivals worldwide, including the above-mentioned festival of progressive and Canterbury School music in Seattle in 2003. In June 2004, In Cahoots played at the French music festival, **Les Tritonales**, held outside Paris.

BAND MEMBER BIOS (compiled from PhilMiller.com and AllMusic.com)

PETER LEMER

Classically trained in piano at the Royal Academy of Music, keyboardist **Peter Lemer** studied jazz under **Paul Bley**. He played in various jazz lineups in the 1960s with **Elton Dean**, **Dick Heckstall-Smith**, the **Spontaneous Music Ensemble** and others. His own band, the **Paul Lemer Quintet**, released the lp, *Local Color*, on ESP in 1966. Lemer belonged to a number of noted progressive rock bands in the 1970s, including **Gilgamesh** and **Pierre Moerlen's Gong**, and recorded and toured with **Michael Oldfield**. He also played with **Harry Beckett**, **Barbara Thompson**, **Annette Peacock** and others. A member of **In Cahoots'** first lineup, Lemer left after recording 1987's *Cutting Both Ways* to rejoin and record with one of his former bands, **Barbara Thompson's Paraphernalia**. Lemer worked subsequently with **Phil Miller**, guesting on *Digging In* (1991) and touring Japan with In Cahoots later that year. He rejoined In Cahoots on a permanent basis in 1995. Recently, Lemer has worked with Miller in duo and trio formats (w Fred Baker), and recorded on Miller's *Out Of The Blue* (2000).

JIM DVORAK

The only In Cahoots member not a British native, trumpet player **Jim Dvorak** was born in the US. He graduated from NY's Eastman School of Music before moving to England, where he became a prominent figure in the improv scene. Dvorak played in the 1970s in **Chris MacGregor's Brotherhood of Breath** and in bands led by **Keith Tippett**, drummer **Louis Moholo**, and **Elton Dean**, and also led the groups **Joy** and the 17 piece jazz/dance extravaganza **Sun Sun**. He worked with numerous groups during the 1980s-90s, including **Lol Coxhill**, **Geoff Serle's Research**, **Dudu Pukuwana's Zila**, **Brian Abrahams' District Six**, **Maggie Nichols' Very Varied**, **Nick Evans' Dreamtime**, **Ruthie Smith's Toot Sweet**, **Brian Abrahams**, and **Keith Tippett**. He has worked as an arranger; written scores for theatre works; done improvised performances with London-Based dancers **Janice Galloway** and other; and from 1982-87, ran London improv club, **Club Extremor**. During the '90s Dvorak recorded with **The Dedication Orchestra**, **Nick Evan's Dreamtime**, **Wally Brill**, and others. He released a solo disc, *This Isn't Sex* (**Slam**, 1999) which featured spoken word songs by **Eric Mingus**. Besides his work in **In Cahoots**, which he joined in 1990, Dvorak currently plays in **Elton Dean's Newsense** and in the **Bardo State Orchestra**. Dvorak is also widely known for his work throughout Europe as a jazz teacher/ workshop leader. Currently he is teaching at **Weymouth College**, **The Royal Academy of Music**, and the **Guildhall**, as well as presenting numerous "thematic" workshops.

FRED THELONIUS BAKER

Trained in guitar by his musician father, **Fred Thelonious Baker** began playing electric bass in his teens, playing both jazz and classical music and studying at the **Birmingham School of Music**. He toured with **The John Etheridge/Ric Sanders Band** in the early 1980s, and in 1984 formed the **Fred Thelonious Baker Group**, which recorded an lp. Baker joined trumpeter **Harry Beckett's** group and played in the **Elton Dean/John Etheridge Quartet**, which led to Dean's recommending him as Hopper's replacement for In Cahoots in 1988. Baker has recorded 6 albums with In Cahoots and contributed compositions to the repertoire. Besides In Cahoots, Baker currently plays in a guitar duo with Miller, which released the CD *Double Up*, and in the folk/jazz trio of **Sanders/Baker/Clayton**. Baker has recorded has two solo CDs, *Missing Link* (**Voiceprint**) and *Concerto for Two Guitars* (**Classicprint**). He also teaches jazz and progressive music at the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music.

ELTON DEAN

The All Music Guide calls saxophonist **Elton Dean** the "spearhead of free jazz in England". One of the world's best improvising saxophonists, he was trained in piano and violin as a child and began playing saxophone in his teens. Dean's first band was **Long John Baldry's Bluesology** in the 1960s, whose pianist, **Elton John**, co-opted Elton Dean's and John Baldry's first names for his pop career stage name. During the 1970s, Dean played and recorded with the **Keith Tippett Sextet**, **Soft Machine**, the **Brotherhood of Breath**, and the **Carla Bley band**, and formed a group which released an lp on CBS in 1971. During the 1980s he played in such bands as the **London Jazz Composer's Orchestra**, **Pip Pyle's Equip'Out**, **Mark Hewins' FF**, **The Music Doctors**, **London/Dallas Sextet**, and various quartets of his own. Dean has been a member of **In Cahoots** since it was formed in 1982. In the 1990s, he also played in Equip'Out and recorded numerous CDs in his own ensembles, including a large jazz ensemble, **Newsense**. Cuneiform has released several critically acclaimed CDs featuring Dean's work, including *Silent Knowledge* (1996), *Moorsongs* (2001) *Bladik* (1997), and *Just Us* (1998 reissue). Besides In Cahoots and his own ensembles, Dean currently plays in **Keith Tippett's Big Band** and the quartet **SoftWare**.

MARK FLETCHER

In Cahoots' newest member, drummer **Mark Fletcher**, joined the band after Pip Pyle left in 1992. A highly in demand session player, he has worked with numerous well-known musicians, including the jazz players **Dizzie Gillespie**, **James Moody**, and **Kenny Wheeler**, and rock musician **Dave Gilmour**, best known as the guitarist for **Pink Floyd**.