**KONKOLO ORCHESTRA**

Nongoma Ndlovu vocals

Kitio Batola vocals

Alexis Malefakis drums

Mischa Frey bass

Max Schmid guitar

Michael Reany guitar

Jacob Gilfry trumpet

Fabian Carisch baritone sax / keyboards

Mauro Reinmann tenor sax

Willi Hauenstein percussion

Kudus Yabdoo percussion

Elias Knecht percussion

Konkolo Orchestra is a Zürich/Switzerland based project initiated by multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer Alexis Malefakis. With strong jazzy afrobeat and highlife references, Konkolo Orchestra pays homage to musical innovators such as Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Tony Oladipo Allen, Ebo Taylor and many more.

This first album continues the warm, vibrant, percussive motif of the hugely popular "Blue G." single of 2022. As Gilles Peterson wrote : *"One of the big tunes of the year came from Konkolo Orchestra*.*"* For those who like their music to inspire journey and movement, this album is the equivalent of gatecrashing a wedding party where even granny can get her groove on.

Malefakis is hardly rewriting the afrobeat textbook here, but his production charms the listener with a confident mastery of the genre. His compositions have a distinct personality and a tight structure, and are peppered with a talented array of guest vocalists: Nongoma (South Africa), Sir Frank Karikari (Ghana) and Kitio Batola (Congo); alongside Eric Owusu (Ghana) on percussion. The uplifting lyrics and joyful melodies are held together by a powerhouse horn section bearing all the swinging hallmarks of a highlife fanfare.

Hard to define the standout tracks when the entire oeuvre gels together so well as a festive fusion. Deeply funky and syncopated, Malefakis has produced a motivational winter warmer for both feet and spirit.

**Konkolo Orchestra Future Pasts album credits:**

Produced by A. Malefakis.

Recorded by A. Malefakis and Kaspar Hensel in Zürich, Switzerland and by Florian Erlbeck in Berlin, Germany.

Mixed by Florian Erlbeck in Berlin, Germany.

Mastered by Christian Stickel in Vienna, Austria.

Covert artwork by Spencer Robens and Ivan Muench.

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