

**ERRABAL**  
J | A | Z | Z

**Mikel Andueza**

**5 Segundoro / Cada 5 segundos**

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Errabal (ER-078)  
2015  
CD



Fourth record signed by saxophonist Mikel Andueza. With a long professional career and recognised prestige in jazz music, this classical music trained native navarrese stood out from early age as a brilliant student along his way through the Professional Conservatoire Pablo Sarasate of Navarra, the Real Upper Conservatoire of Madrid, collaborating during this period with Radio Televisión Spanish Orchestra, Basque Symphony Orchestra and the Bilbao Symphonic Orchestra and later studies at Berklee College of Music where he takes contact with the world of jazz, winning saxophonist Performance Award Highlights in his class, graduating Cum Laude.

Composer, arranger and performer, has developed his professional career in many different areas as part of the Taller de Musics and the Hall of Modern Music Conservatory of Liceu in Barcelona and the School of Creative Music in Madrid, working with numerous local and international artists participating in more than twenty albums, not forgetting his work in teaching and pedagogy fields.

Within a contemporary jazz context, this fourth record feeds on many influences and dyes, charanga in “Zortziko to Mauro,” popular Navarrese music arrangements (Axuri Beltza). On the other hand, in the record giving name track beauty and creativity make their way through contemporary music, inviting us to reflect on the tragic fact that every five seconds a child dies from hunger in Africa. An eclectic and free work, showing us an open path through creative and contemporary Jazz with the very wisdom from this restless musician.

To achieve this, he has had the participation of two of the Basque jazz scene pioneers and leading figures at national level such as the native San Sebastian bassist Gonzalo Tejada, with whom he usually share various projects, Iñaki Salvador in the piano and keyboards as well as outstanding jazz scene musicians such as the american musician settled in Madrid, Chris Kase on trumpet and flugelhorn, Argentine guitar player Dani Perez and the Catalan drummer Gonzalo del Val.

“Every five seconds,” with its encrypted message is an exciting musical journey to contemporary music and clear evidence that today’s jazz remains with an excellent health.

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Anyone familiar with the artistic and professional career of Mikel Andueza knows that he is a real musician. The breadth of his vision, his talent to imagine personal musical territories and his remarkable skills as a saxophonist are basic features of his musical personality, but not the only ones: Mikel is also an essential educator for many young talents and a close and friendly guy. So for those who have followed him for a long time the news of his album is definitely great.

*Every 5 seconds* contains nine original compositions and one arrangement, also of Andueza's own, of the traditional melody *Axuri Beltza*, a dance song from Jaurrieta that women villagers sing and dance during the local holiday once a year. In these times when sometimes one has the feeling that the interest in creating good melodies is somewhat parked in jazz by the obsession to build complex and even far-fetched harmonic lattices, it's comforting to run into guys like Mikel, who know how to shape melodies of great beauty and think of a composition as a unity with all the different elements -melodic, harmonic and rhythmic- set together into a global approach. That's probably the reason why when you listen to Mikel's tunes they offer this unique feeling of a complete story well developed, where written and improvised parts share a same aim: to shape an idea, an aroma, a story. And I can tell you that there are not many guys out there capable of this kind of achievement.

In addition to this, just check the list of Mikel's fellow travelers on this album and you'll discover another one of his abilities: to choose partners with true eye. I can imagine how stimulating and pleasant must be to get into a studio with people like Iñaki Salvador, Dani Perez, Chris Kase, Gonzalo Tejada and Gonzalo del Val, all of them true masters with a long career of their own. It is not easy for a band to work without a good empathy among its members, and it's remarkable the way these formidable musicians are able to bring everything they have inside without losing sight for a minute of the collective sense, and the way they respect the compositions and ideas of Mikel. A process often so enriching for the music itself, that always gets better with the presence of talented artists who really know their stuff. Without them, I'm sure, this album would be different.

Returning to Andueza's compositional skills, here's a good tasting menu to appreciate them; Long melodic developments frequently accompanied by exciting rhythmic movements as in *Majito*, a song also spiced with three great solos by Mikel, Chris and Salvador. *Every 5 seconds*, a musical reflection on the horrific tragedy of infant mortality in this crazy world we live in, is a real soulful melodic explosion. In other cases, as in *Underground*, the structure of the tune grows in dynamics and intensity admirably. *Ponle letra* moves through different duo sequences, after a joyful melody line in unison by Mikel and Dani Perez. More relaxed moments share space with others of intensity that never seems forced: just a natural consequence of the development of things.

Of course, do not expect to find topical or facile clichés on this record. What we have here is real music made by people with capacity to move you. In many ways, *Every 5 seconds* is a beautiful musical journey that we follow with the the greatest of joys. So, although we know that his professional dedication takes up most of his time, we will not stop asking Mikel something we can not keep silent: please go into the studio more frequently, 'cause albums like this one are the ones that give you so much pleasure for a long time.

Mario Benso