



## FUNK OFF

### *Things Change*

After 17 years of work, performances, recordings, concerts, and life experiences shared together, Funk Off finally release their sixth album "*Things Change*" (slated for release by Jando Music/Via Veneto Jazz in May 2015). Things have indeed changed and continue to do so, in fact, the band has been taking on more black music, capturing the essence of soul music. For the first time Funk Off hosts two special guest singers and co-authors, namely **Avery\*Sunshine**, the rising star of American black music in the track *Dance With Me* and **Raul Midòn**, internationally-renowned singer, song-writer and guitarist, with *Deja Vu*; two tracks where all the passion, emotion and power of Funk Off's soul cuts through. To emphasize this creative streak, the sole guest instrument on this album is played by the legendary **Fred Wesley**, trombonist to James Brown, in the track *Bill and the Sweet Fairy*. With "Things Change" Funk Off starts a new chapter yet maintains that dynamic, intense energy evident in their live shows. As in their previous works, the notes, the groove, the chemistry and empathy all build up in a unique emotional experience, leading to a collection of musical ideas and creating something wholly unique among these fifteen musicians led by Dario Cecchini.

There are a number of references that drift listeners into the roots of soul: *Inner City Soul* inspired by Marvin Gaye's *Inner City Blues* and *Bill & the Sweet Fairy*, dedicated to Bill Withers. The album also includes compositions with linear song structures such as *Soulmates* and *Groovy Day*. *Talking Pictures*, is a song deeply reminiscent of a ballad/beguine, markedly differing from Funk Off's style. *Yin and Yang* is a flute-centred track, traditionally present in each of their albums, while *To Bits* and *The Certain Doubt* have the harder edge of the band's sound. The title track *Things Change*, is the song that seems to summarize this album - with a swaggering, relaxed, cheerful groove but also more introspective than the other tracks. *A Breath of Fresh Air*, which closes the album, is an upbeat swinging march inspired by the New Orleans marching band, acknowledging the band's debt to that tradition.

### Tour Funk Off|*Things Change* 2015

- 2 May > Teatro Guglielmi (Massa) guest Karima
- 16 May > Vicenza Jazz Festival guest Karima
- 17 May > Teatro Comunale Thiene
- 20 May > Rome Casa del Jazz guest Karima
- 23 May > Ankara Jazz Festival (Turkey)
- 29 May > Novazzano (Switzerland)
- 30 May > Blue Note Milano guest Karima

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