

# THE CHRIS MASON-BATTLEY GROUP WITH RICHARD NUNNS



“There’s a deep beauty here, haunting and dark. The group plays and listens with a rare sensitivity and concentration, even when the mood is understated there’s no loss of passion. The dialogue between Richard Nunns and Chris Mason-Battley imbues this disc with a timelessness and restrained intensity not found elsewhere.”

JOHN PSATHAS  
(2004 OLYMPICS COMPOSER)



Contact: Chris Mason-Battley  
Phone: +64 9 810 8313  
Mobile: +64 273 409509  
[www.chrismb.co.nz](http://www.chrismb.co.nz)

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Two distinct musical sensibilities explore their similarities and differences through improvisation: Maori instrumentation and European jazz forge new paths within the evolving musical landscape of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

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From intimate conversations between koauau (bone flute) and saxophone to dynamic, emotive group improvisations – this is a journey for performer and audience alike, exploring new territory in the dialogue between Maori and European artforms.

Richard Nunns is one of the leading exponents of taonga puoro – traditional Maori instruments. He has spent over 25 years working with the late Hirini Melbourne on the task of restoring these instruments to their rightful place as one of the key cultural and spiritual voices of Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Richard has played in a wide range of settings from private cultural ceremonies to international music festivals. He has collaborated with pop, classical, and jazz musicians, including Marilyn Crispell, Evan Parker, Mike Nock, and the NZ Symphony Orchestra and has recorded for films such as *Lord of the Rings* and *Whalerider*.

The Chris Mason-Battley Group records and performs music which explores and reflects the open untamed beauty of Aotearoa, New Zealand. They have released two albums to date, their third, *Two Tides* being a collaboration with Richard Nunns, launched in February 2006.

Touring Group:

RICHARD NUNNS  
(Taonga Puoro)

CHRIS MASON-BATTLEY  
(Sax & Samples)

DAVID LINES  
(Piano)

GRAEME WEBB  
(Guitars)

SAM GILES  
(Bass)

STEVE GARDEN  
(Drums & Percussion)

“It was invigorating to hear such an innovative performance..

The audience, inspired to listen from a new perspective, was witness to that marvelous musical alchemy in which the result was much more than a simple sum of the parts.”

Stephen Gibbs  
SOUNZ



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