

# MOIIZAH

## ‘AMBARAO’

This debut from Norwegian four piece **MOIIZAH** is an album that fuses Nordic cool with funky Malagasy (*the language of Madagascar*) roots: sinuous rhythms meet hip soundscapes, cultured and consummate performances unfold while overlooking the ever changing waters of the Sound of Jura in western Scotland.

Lead singer of Moihaz, **Rivo Noarivelo** grew up as an active force in the music scene of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa. Performing and touring in Africa and Europe, this apprenticeship gave him a unique musical grounding. Having moved to Norway, where love had drawn him to new challenges and opportunities, he had a chance meeting with Norwegian musicians who were backing up fellow Madagascan Rasoanaivo Hanitrarivo. This led to the birth of a project that would pull in all manner of influences to combine with Rivo's deep musical heritage.

With other involvements in very diverse projects in Norway, like **Machinenfestung**, **Kitchen Orchestra** and **Mirakkels Orkester**, a heady range of flavours and approaches could be brought to bear in the creation of MOIIZAH. This is a proper band, in the true sense of the word, and the focus of their sound is Rivo's songwriting, in which he talks about love, sex, crime, the state of the planet, and more, but the arrangements pull in all manner of layers that the band's members bring from their huge range of playing experience. Rivo's ever present Malagasy essence fuses with an unmistakable Northern hemisphere sound with plenty of hip artfulness, Traditions meld in a panorama of sounds where Africa meets Europe, industrial meets pastoral, old school meets new school and hot meets cold.

The project, and the identification and development of MOIIZAH's distinct sonic palette, has been looked after by producer **Giles Perring** - familiar to World and Roots listeners for his work with **Albert Kuvezin** and **Yat Kha**, **Aline Frazão**, **Mekons** and **Takula**, but also a graduate of English improv, art rock and industrial electronica. - and the band made the record in an old schoolhouse on the isolated Isle of Jura in Scotland where Giles has his studio.

This is debut that will speak to many audiences, and which does plenty to subvert and challenge the whole idea of genre in music. Ambarao - get it in your soul

### MOIIZAH:

**Rivo Noarivelo** (voice and guitars)

**Henning Rød Haugland** (keys, backing vocals percussion)

**Thomas Bang** (bass, backing vocals, percussion)

**Marius Munthe-Kaas** (drums, percussion, backing vocals)

Ambarao, the debut album by Moihaz will be released by XA on 18 January 2019

