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BLUE
CHOPSTICKS
Distributed by
DRAG CITY

BASTRO

'ANTLERS: LIVE 1991



TRACKLISTING

Antlers	1
Hirscheneck	2
Czar Bar, Chicago, 7/6/91	
Educated Fool	3
Lounge Ax, Chicago, 9/21/91	
Metal Legs	4
Sleepy Taste	5
Beatlesnacht	6
Lounge Ax, Chicago, 9/11/91	
Glistery	7
Markthalle, Hamburg, 10/91	

CAT NOS:	BC14CD	(Enhanced CD)
FORMATS:	CD	
DEALER PRICES:	20	
BAR CODES:	781484701422	

FILE UNDER (musical style) : **Alternative**

1991, the year that punk broke. Some of it broke into the mainstream—for about ten minutes. But some of it, like **Bastro**, broke into odd, beautiful shards. During the final year of their existence, **Bastro** was the power trio of **Bundy K. Brown**, **John McEntire**, and **David Grubbs**. With two Homestead Records LPs (*Sing the Troubled Beast* and *Bastro Diablo Guapo*—see DC290CD) and an EP behind them, the group switched gears and concentrated on longer instrumental pieces.

Bastro split up at the end of 1991, before making studio recordings of these pieces. What happened afterwards is well-known. **Grubbs** and **Brown** started **Gastr del Sol**, and **Brown** and **McEntire** joined **Mosquito**, who changed their name to **Tortoise**. Singers across the land started receiving pink slips. Punk rockers and free improvisers and industrial-music freaks formed bands together and started living in the studio. Genre classifications were scorned—until **Simon Reynolds** dubbed the whole thing “post-rock.” (Whatever!)

Antlers is an attempt to represent what **Bastro** was doing in 1991. It represents a period in which **Bastro** seemed to be changing from show to show, playing intricately constructed instrumentals with utter abandon. Many of these instrumental pieces later morphed into **Gastr del Sol** songs—“Antlers” became “A Watery Kentucky,” “Beatlenacht” became “For Soren Mueller,” and “Glistery” became “Dictionary of Handwriting.” Parts of “Educated Fool” resurfaced years later in “Fool Summons Train.” And “Hirscheneck” came from “Counterrev: Bhutan,” a song on the first **Bastro** EP. Compositions were in flux, with the band soon to follow. These are among its final recordings, but they sound less like death throes than chin scratchings and chargings onward.

Antlers consists of cassette recordings made by audience members. It has a rough, blasting-at-you quality that perfectly suits these headlong performances. This enhanced CD also includes live footage of the group in Germany and Holland during their final tour.

Apart from **Bastro**, **Gastr del Sol**, and **Tortoise**, **Bundy K. Brown** has played in **Pullman** and **Directions in Music**. As a remixer, he’s whacked tracks by **The Sea and Cake**, **Calexico**, and **Aerial M**. As a producer, he’s worked with **Isotope 217**, **The Chicago Underground Trio**, and **REX**. **John McEntire** is a member of **Tortoise** and **The Sea and Cake**, owns and operates Soma Electronic Music Studios, and has produced **Stereolab**, **Tom Ze**, **Radian**, and heaps more. Before **Bastro**, **David Grubbs** was in the Louisville punk group **Squirrel Bait**. Since then, he’s played in **Gastr del Sol**, **The Red Krayola**, and **The Wingdale Community Singers**, as well as making numerous solo albums.

- A legendary live band heard live on record for the first time.
- Antlers contains early versions of tracks later recorded by **Gastr del Sol** and **David Grubbs**.
- Antlers also contains previously unreleased live video footage of Bastro in Germany and Holland.
- Liner notes by the three band members are included in the booklet for Antlers.
- Antlers package illustrated with numerous previously unpublished photos of these gents looking awfully young.

Label Website: www.bluechopsticks.org