

# MAALO

Funk, soul, disco, dialect pop ... new feelgood music with songs by the internationally award-winning Viennese producer and thoroughbred musician MAALO aka Albert O. Mair is at the start. The third album "No Room For Compromise" was shortly presented with an 11-member lineup at Porgy & Bess in Vienna. MAALO has been synonymous with elaborately produced studio albums and extroverted live gigs since 2000. With brilliant choir and horn arrangements and a pulsating rhythm group, the current album also brings together 25 top musicians to form a groovy big band collective.

MAALO is the lead singer, keyboardist, songwriter, arranger and producer of his 45 songs, which have been released on 3 albums and are reminiscent of Earth, Wind & Fire classics due to their complexity and song character. Even as a child, MAALO dealt with sophisticated soul and pop music and learned from the arrangements of top-class producers such as Quincy Jones, Prince, Al Jarreau or George Michael. The lyrics focus on statements that relate to lifestyle and relationships as well as to human abysses and the ecological situation of our planet. With "Life for Love" and "Love is a Wonder" he received the first prize in the R & B / Rap / Soul division of the international Song Expo competition in Holland in 2000.

## Lineup:

MAALO: lead vocals, vintage keys, recorder | Alexandra Regenfelder: vocals, keys  
Kathrin Wagner: vocals | Stefan Wessel: bass, vocals, percussion  
Thomas Hechenberger: guitar, vocals | Willi Langer, bass  
Mario Lackner: drums | Nelson Williams: percussion, trombone, rap  
Martin Wimmer: trumpet, flugelhorn | Adam Ladanyi: trombone  
Wolfi Schiefer: saxophone, flute



## Kontakt:

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## REFERENCES

Porgy & Bess, Snow Jazz Gastein, Woodstock der Blasmusik, Jazzfest Wien, Zawinuls Birdland, Donauinselfest, Summerstage, Reigen, Jazzfest Wiesen, KIK/Ried, Altes Kino/Rankweil, Spinnerei, Nexus, Unterfahrt/München, Zagreb, Jazzfest Bale, Jazzliebe Festival, Most&Jazz Fehring, Radio Wien, 98.3 Superfly, Liferadio, Ö3, Puls4, Presse, Hoanzl, Rebeat, ...

## PRESS

"No Room for Compromise" has once again become a relaxed masterpiece between soul and funk à la Kool & The Gang. Music that reconciles you with the world. Maalo will present this on February 20th at the Porgy & Bess in Vienna in appropriate opulence. | **Die Presse**, 14.2.2020, U-Musik, Samir H. Köck

Much can be said about music from Austria, but only rarely: that it would be a mediator of sunny cheerfulness. This is exactly the domain of the singer, songwriter and keyboardist Maalo. The third studio album [...] is bursting with sophisticated, feel-good soul in rich arrangements. Following Kool & The Gang and the tone of George Benson pop hits, Maalo serves straightforward melodies, carried by a crisp rhythm section and garnished with sleek brass intersperses. | **Wiener Zeitung, Kultur/Jazz-CD 16.02.2020, Christoph Irrgeher**

It sounds really good when the Viennese sings with a bright, even swinging crooning voice and a young band, full of brass, hears accents between jazz and funk with pinpoint accuracy. | **Concerto 1.4.2020**

Maalo relies on catchy melodies, funky rhythms and sharp brass movements - and at a high level. | **St. Pölten Konkret, 02/2020**

## ARCHIVE

Maalo alias Albert O. Mair (voc, keyb), with his generous band, relies on mainstreamsoul and feelgood radio from the 1970s and 80s. Acts like Kool & The Gang, The Jackson Five or Earth, Wind & Fire provide more than just keywords, Maalo can also fall back on three albums with their own material. | **Falter 7/20, Lexikon Musik/Pop**

Wow. Super good funk with brass and the groove that makes it fine. No wonder, too, because behind Maalo lies keyboard wizzard Albert Mair as a driving head with such fine sidemen as Willi Langer, Georg Beck or Martin Fuss. Groove it!  
(Hallo Tulln No. 1/12, novelties on CD, Shorty's Cut)

Groove, melodic Acid Jazz, sweet soul and even Synthie-Disco. Ideal for this easiness might have been George Duke. Under the sign "Maalo" Albert O. Mair poaches in the jungle of sensual sounds. Maalo plays all the classic instruments of the seventies like Moog Synthesizer, Fender Rhodes Piano, Organ and Clavinet. The catchy songs originated between 1994 and 2011 exude timeless sensuality, which has become very rare in Austria's music scene. Also Late-Night-Songs like "I've Got It Bad" succeeded beautifully. If something of the kind would be played in our OE3-Wecker (morning mainstream radio show) the world would be better. (Die Presse, Samir Köck, album of the week, text shortened, 2012)

MAALO & the Funk Fellows, an international band from Europe, dished out some fabulous funk to promote their brand new "Soul Stories" album. Playing a mix of contemporary funk, soul and R&B with a good mix of up tempo numbers and ballads, they really got the crowd going. The cool vocal and horn arrangements enrich the music harmonically and rhythmically. The wah-wah guitar, Fender Rhodes piano and Moog synthesizer give MAALO's sound an authentic 70s touch. (prodosh.com)

Maalo, aka Albert O. Mair is obviously on Earth, Wind & Fire and so we are lucky to be able to hear disco radio in full force even in 2012. The man has soul in his heart, a good knack for composing and a first-class 9-piece band consisting of the wind section, 4-part vocals, an excellent rhythm group including Cuban percussion. Somehow the songs sound so familiar, but they are all original compositions, give every musician enough freedom, meander between reggae and funk and are refreshingly stirring. Maalo's additional qualities as entertainers are added live. (Film Sound Media, 4/12)

The songs represent perfected mainstream soul / funk in the tradition of the 70 / 80s West Coast Supergroups a la Maze feat. Frankie Beverly or Earth Wind & Fire. (Alexander Hirschenhauser, Soulseduction, 2004)

Pure party! The band MAALO provided a fun atmosphere with soulful funk and the audience in the Red Angel was just thrilled. [...] A great soul musician who plays music of a special kind with his R&B ensemble. (GO-TV, Wieselburger Livemusik Festival, 2006)

A melange of a particularly soulful kind was heard recently at Porgy & Bess. Maalo presented his new album "Soulstories". Listening to the album is a feast for the ears, it is even better to only experience Maalo and his band live. The Funk Fellows develop incredible energy on stage. Nobody can sit still, which nobody did at Porgy & Bess! At the end of the evening it was clear: you want more! More soul and especially more maalo! (Jazz Café, Ranthild Salzer, 2008)

MAALO has produced an album on which every take can be broadcasted. He skillfully mixes soul with jazz and pop-adequate elements. The voice is a lot of fun and underlines the quality of this production from home. (Alfred Kronraf, Concerto, 2008)

Solidly instrumented, elitistly performed, conceptually quite traditional soul pop. The cast list of the 17-tracker reads like a who's who of the domestic scene, and the quality level is accordingly high. (Franz J. Sauer, Weekend, 2008)

A very promising material with an international format and the creme of the Austrian music scene. (Veit Krämer, Soulheaven, 2001)