



Bio information: **THE MUFFINS**

Title: **BAKER'S DOZEN** (Cuneiform Rune 500)

Format: BOX SET (12xCD + DVD + BOOK) / DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

[www.cuneiformrecords.com](http://www.cuneiformrecords.com)

FILE UNDER: **ROCK / IMPROVISATION / AVANT-PROGRESSIVE / ROCK IN OPPOSITION**

*The Muffins were a Washington, D.C. area band who existed from 1974-81 and then again with their best-known line-up still intact from 1993-2015. They were called, "...the finest progressive band that America produced... even at it's most complicated, (they) sounded effortless & convincing" by Fred Frith. They also acted as Fred's backing band on his first post-Henry Cow solo album, Gravity*

*"...fresh and genuinely exciting, with great writing, more textural variety in the arrangements, and more conviction, swagger, and even passion in the playing...the ability of the music to accommodate their wild and woolly energy says volumes about the easy confidence and vision of the working quartet... [that] ...really has it all -- breadth, depth, intelligence, and creativity." – ALLMUSIC*

It is an all-too-rare occurrence for a band, throughout its career, to create music that continually pushes the envelope and transforms the landscape. It is an even rarer occurrence for such a band to reunite after a long separation, and embark on a second musical career that continues to be as innovative as the first.

The Muffins, a group equally influenced by the then-current British progressive rock sounds of bands such as Henry Cow, National Health and Soft Machine as they were by contemporary American jazz and improvisational artists like Anthony Braxton, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Sun Ra and Miles Davis, were formed in Washington, DC in the early 1970s and recorded three albums before disbanding in 1981. In 1998 the group reformed and recorded a further six albums. *AllMusic* describes their music as a 'unique blend of Canterbury progressive, fusion, improvisation and much more.'

During their two lifetimes, the band performed at now legendary festival events, including the ZU Festival (NYC), the Rock In Opposition Festival (France), the Villa Celimontana Jazz Festival (Rome), Sonic Circuits (D.C.) and NEARFest (Bethlehem, PA), among many others.

The band were a hugely creative force during both lifetimes, combing intense, rehearsal intensive compositions with spirited free play, and moving effortlessly between musical boundaries and genres. **They were one of the great American contemporary music ensembles of our time.**

***Baker's Dozen*** is a 13 disc box set of nearly all previously unreleased live and studio recordings from 1975 - 2010! It includes 12 CDs, a DVD, and a huge, informative booklet. The entire box is a treasure trove of never seen and never heard material.

## PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS

Digital [High-Resolution] versions of these images are available on the **The Muffins** artist page @ [cuneiformrecords.com](http://cuneiformrecords.com)

