

Peter Hum **Alpha Moment**

Release Date: 9/23/2015

Jazz pianist Peter Hum admits that the group that he leads might well be "the world's most impractical band," but he wouldn't have it any other way.

Based in his hometown of Ottawa, Canada's capital, Hum convenes a sextet of powerful peers that includes Kenji Omae (tenor saxophonist, who lives in Seoul, South Korea), Nathan Cepelinski (alto and soprano saxophonist, who lives in New York), Juno Award-winning guitarist Mike Rud and bassist Alec Walkington (both Montrealers) and drummer Ted Warren (who lives in Guelph).

"We're six guys in five cities, in three countries on two continents," Hum says. The results of this special collaboration can be heard on **Alpha Moment**, Hum's second album, which was released in late September 2015 and supported by a Central Canada tour.

The collection of eight originals, supported by grants from the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Arts Council, reflects Hum's advances as a composer since his acclaimed 2010 debut disc **A Boy's Journey**, as well as his interest in providing his long-time friends with material that leads to creative sparks and powerful, personal expressions.

"I'm connected to Alec, Kenji and Nathan via Ottawa, where we all grew up. Alec is one of my oldest and best friends. We played jazz together in high school and I was best man at his wedding. I played with Kenji and Nathan when they were teenagers, and I'm in awe of how they have become absolute monsters. I met Ted and Mike during my university days in Montreal in the late 1980s, and you could already hear their distinctive sounds and personalities in their playing.

"Friendship is a huge deal for this band. Definitely the hang is always super-fun. Meanwhile, I think that the shared histories, on bandstands and off, as well as the excellent musicianship of those guys, mean that we can usually make something special happen when we play."

Between them, Hum's bandmates have performed with jazz stars such as Joe Henderson, Kenny Wheeler, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Harold Mabern and Ingrid Jensen, not to mention top Canadian talents including Rob McConnell, Mike Murley, John Stetch and many others.

Peter, a self-taught pianist, counts himself very fortunate to have performed with Canadian greats Pat LaBarbera, Sonny Greenwich, Phil Nimmons, Andre White and Joel Miller. In Ottawa, he collaborates with the city's top players including Roddy Ellias, John Geggie and Vince Rimbach.

The **Alpha Moment** recording was done over two days during the 2011 Christmas break, when Hum was able to bring everyone together. The fall 2015 release stems from the fact that Hum is not a full-time musician – he has worked as journalist at the Ottawa Citizen, his city's leading newspaper, for the last 25 years, and is currently its assistant entertainment editor, food editor, jazz critic and restaurant critic.

"I'm really glad that the disc is finally seeing the light of day," Hum says.

The lead-off tune, *The Good Fight*, is a stirring starter that showcases the addition of Rud's soulful guitar in the ensemble sound as well as some supercharged improvising by Omae and Cepelinski. The two horns tussle on the 5/4 romp *Roma Rising*, which also features one of Hum's poised, melodic turns on electric piano. Hum recorded *La tendresse*, svp, a ballad for his wife, on his first album, but revisits it on **Alpha Moment** with the sextet to fine effect. *Voice From Afar* has a Brazilian lilt and is dedicated to one of Canada's great jazz champions, CBC radio personality Katie Malloch, who has inspired and encouraged Hum and his generation of players since the 1980s. The title track is a stops-out epic, a tune that Hum says is about making every moment count. *Bon vivant* plays spry tricks with rhythm and the blues. *Carlingwood* is an infectious, upbeat piece that nods to the Ottawa neighbourhood where Hum lives. *Saddest Day Of The Year* closes the album with a moving song of remembrance and consolation.

What they're saying about **Alpha Moment**:

S. Victor Aaron at Something Else! Reviews:

"Once again, Peter Hum walks the walk with an album full of strong compositions and strong performances. *Alpha Moment* is the product of a serious jazz musician." [Full review](#)

Richard Kamins at Step Tempest:

"*Alpha Moment* is a generous album, generous in spirit, in melodies, in solos, adult music that flows ever-forward on the strength of six fine musicians... This is joyous music worthy of your attention." [Full review](#)

Dan Bilawsky at allaboutjazz.com:

"*Alpha Moment* is finally here, and it, like all good things, was worth waiting for... (Hum's) musical voice is... captivating, articulate, and thought-provoking." (four stars) [Full review](#)

Canadian jazz broadcasting legend Katie Malloch:

"I think the music is wonderful. I love the shapes of your melodies, especially the title track and *The Good Fight*. Having the CD makes me wish I still had a show to play it on!"

Hard copies and downloads of **Alpha Moment**, as well as Peter's first CD, **A Boy's Journey**, can be auditioned and purchased at peterhum.bandcamp.com.

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