

Peter Hum long bio (2019)

Born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, Peter Hum has been a mainstay of the city's jazz community for almost three decades.

Leading bands of Canadian all-stars, he has released two albums of original modern mainstream jazz. His third album, *Ordinary Heroes*, is slated for release in March 2020, thanks to grants from the OAC and City of Ottawa. A concurrent tour of Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada will take place.

Peter's new album features a stellar group of peers including Kenji Omae (tenor saxophone, Antigonish, NS), David Smith (trumpet, Brooklyn, USA), Juno-winner Mike Rud (guitar, Montreal), Alec Walkington (bass, Montreal) and Ted Warren (drums, Guelph, ON). *Ordinary Heroes* is a collection of music addressing the social and political tumult of our times. Its songs range from *Crises and Reckonings*, whose dynamism and interplay bring to mind the frantic arc of current events, to *Cassandra*, a bittersweet swinging tune dedicated to truth-tellers, to *Ordinary Heroes*, a soulful appeal for community, resilience and compassion.

Largely self-taught, Peter was bitten by the jazz bug when he was a teenager, exposed to the music of Keith Jarrett, Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. He counts himself very fortunate to have performed with such Canadian jazz legends as Sonny Greenwich, Phil Nimmons, Pat LaBarbera and Reg Schwager. Over the years, Peter's own projects have included such celebrated colleagues as saxophonists Kenji Omae, Joel Miller and Frank Lozano, guitarists Mike Rud and Roddy Elias, and drummers Ted Warren, Dave Laing and Andre White.

Of *Alpha Moment*, Peter's 2015 sophomore album, Canadian jazz broadcasting icon Katie Malloch said: "I think the music is wonderful. I love the shapes of your melodies... Having the CD makes me wish I still had a show to play it on!" UK jazz critic Patrick Hadfield at London Jazz News wrote: "Hum's piano playing is articulate and understated; his composition is fluent and vivacious. With the quality of playing from his band, it makes a very entertaining record."

Of *A Boy's Journey*, Peter's 2010 debut disc, Radio-Canada producer Andre Massicote said: "Hum presents well-crafted, inspired music that has what it takes to please the most demanding fans of jazz." The Montreal Gazette's Irwin Block wrote: "Peter Hum's debut CD is a celebration - a modern, forward-looking and mainly upbeat session that sparkles with positive energy."

In Montreal during the late 1980s, Peter performed weekly at the first incarnation of the city's famed Upstairs jazz club. While working toward his Master's Degree in English at McGill University, Peter led a sextet that won the 1986 Lowenbrau Jazz Search and represented Quebec at the 1987 Montreal International Jazz Festival's Alcan Jazz Competition.

Outside of music, Peter has been a journalist since 1990 at the *Ottawa Citizen*, where he has covered a multitude of beats. He has also reported for the newspaper from Hong Kong, New York, San Francisco, London, Amsterdam and the Caribbean. He currently writes widely on arts, culture, food and restaurants. He lives in Ottawa with his wife and son.

For more information and news about Peter, and to hear his music, visit: peterhum.com