



Walter Kemp 3oh! "Dark Continent"

walter kemp 3 – *piano, rhodes & organ*
rishon odel northington
electric & acoustic bass (DR Strings, QSC Audio, Shure)
david "teaspoon" hulett
drums & percussion (Bosphorus Cymbals, QC Drums, Regal Tip Sticks)

"Musicianship with creativity and joy in each moment; informed by tradition, while exploring his unique modern voice..." *Robert Davis, Writer/Contributor; Down Beat Magazine*

Blujazz is honored to present the latest recording "Dark Continent," brought to you by Walter Kemp 3, pianist, composer, rhythmic vocalist and the driving force behind his newest endeavor, the **Walter Kemp 3oh!**. The internationally recognized pianist and composer expertly builds ensembles able to dominate in an array of venues. An established composer and arranger, Kemp's compositions have garnered widespread acclaim for their originality, trueness to form, and accessibility. Added to the equation are an ingenious bassist and a drummer who grew up with two spoon "sticks" in his hands, and the stage is set for a most memorable debut and jaw-dropping live performances.

The Walter Kemp 3oh!'s highly-anticipated release brings Kemp's musical and compositional abilities to the forefront. The opening track, "Ah-Freak-Ya" (a double acronym for its parenthetical title, "All for You") initiates the forwardly eclectic tone of the album. With Kemp on piano, we bear witness to a punchy, rhythmic, ear-opening series of pleasantly irregularly syncopated eighths. A piano-bass duo entitled, "Piano, Bass & Jam" begins with an upright bass solo by RiShon Odel Northington, and provides a firm counterpoint to the first tune. It emphasizes the fine points of composition and improvisation—going together like "PB&J." Likewise, every song garners a heavy listen, and has propelled this trio to numerous singular and collective performance invitations before audiences of thousands.



A highly sought-after professional in the Region's progressive music scene, garnering festival appearances and international press, Kemp's creativity, charisma and commanding stage presence have afforded him collaborations with the likes of Juini Booth, Bobby Militello, Sabu Adeyola of Ahmad Jamal Trio (protégé to Charles Mingus), and Rey Scott of Sun Ra's Arkestra. Juini Booth compares Kemp's repertoire to that of Bobby Timmons. Jazz commentator, Garraud MacTaggart (The Buffalo News) states that Kemp's performances command attention-- "locked tight, without any apologies."

Now having joined forces with long-time musical collaborators, RiShon Odel Northington, recording and touring bassist for GRAMMY-nominated Najee, and percussive phenom David "Teaspoon" Hulett (Chuckie Campbell & the Phaction, and Tommy Z Band), the Walter Kemp 3oh! has emerged as a force to be reckoned with. Saxophonist James Brandon Lewis (Okeh Records) noted the beauty in Kemp's "great touch and arrangements" on "Dark Continent," commenting that the trio embodies "the spirit of the music, [which] is most important." A featured artist on Toronto's Jazz FM 91.1, and with a live performance heralded as "the best...incredibly beautiful music," this is just the beginning for these promising young artists.

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