

**STEPHAN CRUMP'S ROSETTA TRIO • OUTLIERS**

featuring Liberty Ellman and Jamie Fox

**after fifteen years of collaboration, the intimately powerful all-string chamber ensemble charts new territories of form and feel on its fourth album**

**LP / CD / Digital release February 19th, 2019 on Papillon Sounds**

**"careful attention reveals the intricacies of its repertory and the calm intensity of its rapport" (*The New York Times*)**

With the album's opening track, "In Waves," Rosetta Trio magnifies its focus on feel, foregoing melody almost entirely while evoking a harmonious complexity of colliding waves. "Re Eyes" then calms the waters, bringing melody back to the foreground. "Middle March" and "Dec 5" are pieces written for Crump's late brother, Patrick, that he saved for the trio, holding them back from the wholly-dedicated *Rhombal* album. Also connected to that quartet effort is "Esquima Dream," recorded again here, but with the trio, as originally intended. The quirky architecture of "Cryoseism" heralds an inaugural compositional offering by Liberty Ellman to the group, while "Away From, A Way To" bookends a twenty-some year period in Crump's output, as it was the opening song on his debut as leader, *Poems and Other Things* (1997, Papillon Sounds). The nervy, driving "Synapse" may be the trio's "Immigrant Song," while the title track urges each player into a different orbit around a common pulse.

In Crump's own words: "I put Rosetta Trio together in 2004 to test out some new work I'd sewn together from many fragments that had come to me over the weeks and months after 9/11. At the time, I wasn't thinking about starting a new group. I had this very personal material and needed to surround myself with people I trusted, old friends. Liberty and Jamie hadn't previously played together, but I had a hunch there'd be sparks. I documented those first sessions, and upon listening I knew there was something special happening, that this was a band. Nevertheless, it took a lot of work for us to find how the ensemble might function, to balance the lift and the lean. That work led us to the first album, *Rosetta*. I hadn't thought beyond this initial experience, but the trio kept playing, touring the States and Europe, becoming a deeper, more expansive version of itself. And there was more I wanted to try in the writing. Next, we made *Reclamation*, then *Thwirl*, for which I invited the guys to contribute compositions (Jamie's piece made that album, and Liberty's is presented here). As it turned out, there was yet more I wanted to try. It started with "Re Eyes," which grabbed me and wouldn't let go. By the time I finished the piece, I knew we were headed back over the mountain. And here we are, *Outliers*."

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\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

Many discerning jazz listeners have come to know Stephan Crump from his twenty years of collaboration with Vijay Iyer, particularly his dynamic founding role in the trio that created *Break Stuff*, *Accelerando*, and the Grammy-nominated *Historicity*. He has worked for nearly as long with Liberty Ellman, notably on the Pi discs *Tactiles*, *Ophiuchus Butterfly*, and *Radiate*. Together with Jamie Fox, Crump performs and records with his wife, the radiant singer-songwriter Jen Chapin, most recently on *Light of Mine* (featuring Rosetta Trio), *Reckoning*, and the brand-new *Desert or Sea*.

Since his arrival in New York twenty-five ago, Crump has found it both natural and essential to be part of multiple music scenes. A child of Memphis, he is strongly influenced by the blues, R&B, rock and soul music of his hometown but also inspired by the European classical traditions he began studying on piano as a child. Shunning barriers of genre, he has performed and recorded with a diverse range of musicians, from Portishead's Dave McDonald, The Violent Femmes' Gordon Gano, to Patti Austin, Jim Campilongo, Jorma Kaukonen, Lucy Kaplansky, Big Ass Truck, Sonny Fortune, and late blues legend Johnny Clyde Copeland. Currently, Crump can be heard as a long-standing member of Vijay Iyer Trio and Sextet, Jen Chapin Band, Ches Smith Trio, Rez Abbasi Acoustic Quartet, Liberty Ellman Sextet, Secret Keeper (with Mary Halvorson), as well as co-led groups with Kris Davis, Ingrid Laubrock, Cory Smythe, Eric McPherson, Mat Maneri, and Okkyung Lee.

Crump launched his solo performance career as an invited artist at the 2009 International Society of Bassists conference and has since released several recordings documenting his duo collaborations with alto saxophonist Steve Lehman, pianist James Carney, and guitarist Mary Halvorson. His Rhombal quartet, with Tyshawn Sorey, Ellery Eskelin, and Adam O'Farrill, recently released its eponymous debut.

Ellman and Fox were both fixtures on the San Francisco Bay area scene and had toured internationally before arriving in New York in the 90s. Aside from his own critically-acclaimed recording career, Ellman has been featured as guitarist and producer in Henry Threadgill's innovative group, *Zooid*, and has performed with other jazz visionaries such as Steve Coleman, Greg Osby, and Myra Melford. An accomplished jazz composer in his own right, Fox brings his idiosyncratic folk, R&B and blues perspective that has contributed to the music of such legends as Joan Baez and Brother Jack McDuff.

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