

Reclamation [] Press Release (from 2010)

STEPHAN CRUMP with ROSETTA TRIO
RECLAMATION

**an intimately powerful album of original compositions performed by
acoustic bass with electric and acoustic guitars**

to be released April 20, 2010 on Sunnyside Records

Featuring Crump with Liberty Ellman and Jamie Fox

***“As a bassist and composer, Mr. Crump avoids obvious routes but manages
never to lose his way...”*** Nate Chinen, *New York Times*

Reclamation is Stephan Crump’s debut on Sunnyside Records. Featuring nine intensely personal compositions, including the polyglot “Pernambuco,” an extended work commissioned by 92nd St Y and New York Guitar Festival, *Reclamation* is a declaration of a unique new compositional voice and a fresh statement from a formidable chamber ensemble.

rec·la·ma·tion (n)

1. the conversion of unusable land, for example, desert or marsh, into land suitable for farming or other uses
2. the extraction of useful substances from waste or refuse
3. the claiming back of something taken or given away

The album’s opening track, “Memphis,” delves into the theme with an loping wistfulness, as Crump honors that which his hometown has given him while also conjuring a fitful goodbye. The intensity of “Overreach” speaks to the self-destructive tendencies of his own country while the epic “Pernambuco” looks outward from the Brazilian wood from which his bass bow was carved, to the whole of history and the ravaging of a rich land’s resources. The introspective “Escalateur” is a song of striving, ascending, while the center track warns of the ways technology can render us “Here Not Here.”

Crump brought together Rosetta Trio for the first time in 2005 to record an album of pieces written in the aftermath of 9/11. That “engaging and sublime meeting” of Crump on acoustic bass with guitarists Liberty Ellman and Jamie Fox, produced the album *Rosetta* which was released in 2006 and greeted enthusiastically by fans, radio and the press. “Here is a string ensemble for the new century!” raved Donald Elfman in *All About Jazz NY*. *Reclamation* is much more than a follow-up effort to its ecstatically-received predecessor, though it was the earlier album that gave the trio its name and its mission: to inhabit the dynamic and rhythmic flexibility of a drumless ensemble and embrace its challenges and expanded responsibilities; to reject restrictions of genre; to explore different territories of feel, texture, color; to groove. Here the trio further develops its intimate synergy and reveals its maturity after having toured and recorded in numerous contexts since those first sessions. This is a band.

Many discerning jazz listeners have come to know Stephan Crump from his ten-year-and-counting association with Vijay Iyer, which has brought forth the albums *Panoptic Modes*, *Blood Sutra*, *In What Language?*, *Tragicomic*, *Reimagining* and the much-

celebrated *Historicity*. “Someone’s got to be the Holy Spirit, representing your faith that this jazz will breathe...” noted Ben Ratliff in his *New York Times* review of a recent Vijay Iyer Trio performance in NYC, “It’s the bassist, of course, cutting through with big, wise, rounded notes.” Stephan has worked for nearly as long with Liberty Ellman, notably on the Pi discs *Tactiles* and *Ophiuchus Butterfly*. And together with Jamie Fox, Crump performs and records with his wife, the radiant singer-songwriter Jen Chapin, whose recent albums *Linger*, *Ready* and *Light of Mine* he also co-produced.

Since his arrival in New York over a decade 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 classical traditions of his Parisian mother’s native land. He is a pillar of the progressive jazz scene, but also works outside it, most often with eclectic uncategorizables such as Telecaster wizard Jim Campilongo’s Electric Trio. Crump’s performances on both acoustic and electric bass have been heard on dozens of recordings and across the globe with, among others, Joel Harrison, Bobby Previte, Mahavishnu Project, Patti Austin, Gordon Gano, Lucy Kaplansky, Big Ass Truck, and Johnny Clyde Copeland. His compositions can be heard in Miramax, HBO, Showtime, Bravo, Granada America and Simple Focus Films, as well as on his earlier albums as a leader: *Poems and Other Things* (1997), *Tuckahoe* (2001) and *Rosetta* (2006).

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 and Greg Osby. 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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