

john hollenbeck

JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE

COMPOSER | DRUMMER | PERCUSSIONIST | EDUCATOR



photography lukas beck

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NEW ALBUM OUT IN JANUARY 2018

New Amsterdam Records is excited to announce the release of »ALL CAN WORK«, the third album from drummer/composer John Hollenbeck and his 20-piece Large Ensemble, out January 26. The album follows the band's **Grammy-nominated** releases *A Blessing* (2005) and *eternal interlude* (2009), and pays tribute to the Large Ensemble's late trumpet player Laurie Frink, a key force in the group and the jazz community. The album title is from an email exchange between Frink and Hollenbeck; the phrase epitomizes the flexible, optimistic resolve that is needed by everyone involved to create a record such as this one.

The John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble will celebrate the release with a performance at NYC's (Le) Poisson Rouge on January 30, with Theo Bleckmann and Ben Monder Duo opening.

This concert is the first in a series of events that will be co-presented by New Amsterdam and (le) Poisson Rouge throughout 2018, marking the 10th anniversary of the two organizations, both born with the mission to elevate the new music community.

After Laurie Frink's passing, Hollenbeck read all of her emails and compiled them in chronological order, finding poetry and inspiration in her words. Acclaimed vocalist Theo Bleckmann brings Frink's words to life in the lyrics of the title track »ALL CAN WORK«. The composition of the piece is based on one of Frink's teaching exercises.

Hollenbeck explains:

»I really sweated this piece because I wanted it to showcase Laurie's ever-present humor, her dedication to 'the music,' and most importantly our love for her.

Her sudden death stunned the NYC music community - but the legacy she left behind as the trumpet guru/therapist/doctor to countless brass and woodwind players lives on, continuing to support and enhance the community she served. No matter where I am in the world, I can talk to a trumpet player who had studied with or knows her exercises.«



ALL CAN WORK Tracklisting:

1. lud
2. All Can Work STREAM EXCERPT
3. Elf
4. Heyoke
5. this kiss
6. from trees
7. Long Swing Dream
8. The Model

ALL CAN WORK (Excerpt)

from All Can Work
by John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble



Sound Verlinkung auf Website:
newamsterdamrecords.bandcamp.com/track/all-can-work-excerpt

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»All Can Work« represents the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble's accumulation of years rehearsing, recording and performing together since its founding in 1998 — the definitive evolution of an exceptional ensemble that has developed a relationship akin to family (some members of which Hollenbeck has been playing with since high school and college). The album also pays tribute to artists who have influenced Hollenbeck most throughout the years: Bob Brookmeyer, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Strayhorn, John Taylor, William Shakespeare, and Piet Mondrian.

The album opens with »lud« — an alluring, hypnotic blend of triumphant horns and angular keys. After the title track comes »Elf«, inspired by composer Billy Strayhorn's piece of the same name that was retitled and repurposed by Duke Ellington as »Isfahan« for the Far East Suite. Hollenbeck's version is a near-inverse of the original, featuring soprano saxophonist Tony Malaby playing in an impressively high register. Pulsing horns open on »Heyoke«, Hollenbeck's tribute to composer/trumpeter and flugelhorn player Kenny Wheeler and jazz pianist John Taylor, featuring Hollenbeck's arrangements of Wheeler's original. »This kiss« follows, capturing the spirit of Shakespeare's »Romeo and Juliet« by creating a mood of sweet romance in the present with a foreboding dissonance that foreshadows the future.

»From trees« shows Hollenbeck exploring Piet Mondrian's study of trees in his early works, in particular his unfinished painting »Broadway Boogie-Woogie.« Hollenbeck fittingly incorporates a boogie-woogie feel into the piece while trying to

evoke the evolution of the lines of a tree in Mondrian's earlier paintings to the bold straight black lines in his last. »Long Swing Dream« embodies the first and (so far) only time a piece came to Hollenbeck in an actual dream. Horns pass around a continuous bass line, while Theo Bleckmann voices musings from Cary Grant about Grant's transformative experiences with LSD (the acronym of the song title) deepen the dream-like effect. The album finishes with »The Model« — Hollenbeck's spirited arrangement of the Kraftwerk original.

»ALL CAN WORK« was recorded by James Farber at Avatar Studios in NYC in June 2017 with assistance from Nate Odden. It was mixed by Brian Montgomery, and mastered by Brent Lambert at Kitchen Mastering. It was produced by John Hollenbeck.

This project was supported in part by the Doris Duke Performing Artists Awards and fiscally sponsored by Arete Living Arts Foundation with funding provided by The Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

Additional large ensemble releases by John Hollenbeck include: A Blessing (John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, 2005, **Grammy-nominated**), Eternal Interlude (John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, 2009, **Grammy Nominated**) Joys and Desires (Jazz Big Band Graz, 2005), Shut Up and Dance (Orchestre National de Jazz, 2010, **Grammy-nominated**), Songs I Like A Lot (Frankfurt Radio Big Band, 2013, **Grammy-nominated**) and Songs We Like A Lot (Frankfurt Radio Big Band, 2015).



photography scott friedlander

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JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE



John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble live im Wiener Konzerthaus



John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble Guarana

» AS A DRUMMER, JOHN HOLLENBECK IS ASTOUNDINGLY PRECISE AND CREATIVE WITH HIS BEATMAKING. AS A COMPOSER, HE'S GOING AFTER SOMETHING AKIN TO THAT: THE REGULATED INSISTENCE OF CLASSICAL MINIMALISM WITH THE FLEXIBLE COLOR PALETTE OF JAZZ, PLUS A HEALTHY DOSE OF DEMENTED DRY HUMOR. «

– Patrick Jarenwattananon, NPR Music

» PROFOUND, IMAGINATIVE, WELL-DEVELOPED PIECES FOR [18] MUSICIANS, GROWN OUT OF JAZZ AND CLASSICAL MUSIC, BUILT AROUND SOLOISTS BUT NEVER SUBSERVIENT TO THEM. AS A BIG-BAND JAZZ COMPOSER, MR. HOLLENBECK WAS ALREADY GOOD; NOW HE'S BECOME GREAT. «

– Ben Ratliff, NY Times

JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL:

Ben Kono soprano/alto/tenor sax, flute

Jeremy Viner clarinet, tenor sax

Tony Malaby tenor/soprano sax on 3, 6

Dan Willis tenor sax, clarinet

Anna Webber flute, tenor sax on 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

Bohdan Hilash clarinet, bass clarinet, bass sax, tubax

Mark Patterson trombone

Mike Christianson trombone

Jacob Garchik trombone, euphonium on 8

Alan Ferber trombone on 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Jeff Nelson trombone on 1, 7, 8

Tony Kadleck trumpet, flugelhorn

Jon Owens trumpet, flugelhorn

Dave Ballou trumpet, flugelhorn

Matt Holman trumpet, flugelhorn

Chris Tordini acoustic, electric bass

Matt Mitchell piano, organ, keyboard

Patricia Brennan vibraphone, marimba, glockenspiel

John Hollenbeck drums, composition

Theo Bleckmann voice

JC Sanford conductor

YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/watch?v=z91-ur1mRHs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAzXV10WKNY

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