

about joshua redman

Joshua Redman is one of the most acclaimed and charismatic jazz artists to have emerged in the decade of the 1990s. Born in Berkeley, California, he is the son of legendary saxophonist Dewey Redman and dancer Renee Shedroff and an alumnus of the jazz studies program at Berkeley High School. After graduating from Harvard College, Redman was accepted by Yale Law School in 1991, but postponed his entrance for one year to satisfy a growing desire to pursue music. Four months later, Redman's instincts were validated when he was named the winner of the Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition by a panel of judges comprised of Jimmy Heath, Branford Marsalis, Frank Wess, the late Benny Carter and the late Jackie McLean.

Now fully committed to a career in the arts, Redman was quickly signed by Warner Bros. Records and issued his first, self-titled album in 1993, where he was featured on tenor saxophone. That same year saw the release of *Wish*, where Redman was joined by an all-star supporting cast of Pat Metheny, Charlie Haden and the late Billy Higgins. His next recording, *MoodSwing*, introduced his first permanent band, which included three other young artists who have gone on to make their mark in the jazz world: pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade. Over a series of celebrated recordings including *Spirit of the Moment/Live at the Village Vanguard*, *Freedom in the Groove* and *Timeless Tales (for Changing Times)*, Redman established himself as one of the music's most consistent and successful bandleaders, and added soprano and alto saxophones to his instrumental arsenal. His second acclaimed quartet, featuring pianist Aaron Goldberg, bassist Reuben Rogers and drummer Gregory Hutchinson, made its debut on Redman's 2000 album *Beyond*, and is also featured performing the saxophonist's first extended composition on the 2001 disc *Passage of Time*.

A year later, Redman channeled his jazz sensibilities through electric instrumentation and formed a new trio, the Joshua Redman Elastic Band, with keyboard player Sam Yahel and drummer Brian Blade, building on an ongoing collaboration with Yahel. The trio debuted on the 2003 release, *Elastic*, which was met with widespread critical and popular acclaim, and released a second recording the same year under the moniker Yaya3. In a subsequent Elastic Band recording, *Momentum*, released in 2005 to inaugurate his affiliation with Nonesuch Records, Redman alternated Blade on drums with Jeff Ballard and the recording also featured an array of guest artists as he continued his exploration into the arena of electric jazz.

In 2002, Redman was named Artistic Director for the spring season of the non-profit organization SFJAZZ (a program of the San Francisco Jazz Festival). Redman and SFJAZZ Executive Director Randall Kline had an idea that The New York Times called a "eureka moment"; the creation of the SFJAZZ Collective, a group of musicians distinguished both by virtuosity and a unique primary emphasis on composition. Inaugurated in 2004, the eight-piece ensemble consists of a changing cast of accomplished musicians, each of whom is required to compose a piece of music that can be further developed in collaboration with the Collective. Live performances feature both commissioned works and new arrangements of the work of great jazz composers and have been enthusiastically received by audiences throughout the world. Highlights of the group's first two seasons are contained on the Nonesuch releases, SFJAZZ Collective and SFJAZZ Collective 2.

In addition to his own projects, Redman has been heard with an array of musicians including Ray Brown, Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, Lionel Hampton, Roy Haynes, Milt Jackson, Elvin Jones, Quincy Jones, Joe Lovano, Marcus Miller, Paul Motian, Dianne Reeves, McCoy Tyner and Cedar Walton. He provided the music for the film *Vanya on 42nd Street* and is both seen and heard in the Robert Altman film *Kansas City*. He will return to the studio in early summer, 2006, to record a collection of acoustic trio tunes, featuring saxophone, bass and drums, which is planned to be released by Nonesuch in spring, 2007.



JOHN PSATHAS
VIEW FROM OLYMPUS
www.viewfromolympus.com

Joshua Redman is in New Zealand with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra to record on *View From Olympus*, a new album featuring three concertos by John Psathas, produced by Rattle Records.

John Psathas is best known as the composer of the opening music for the 2004 Olympic Games, broadcast to an audience of 3 billion people. *View From Olympus* will be New Zealand's most ambitious orchestral project date.

Joshua Redman – who is considered the most significant sax player to emerge in the last 20 years, features on John Psathas' *Saxophone Concerto*. This piece originally premiered in Bologna by 11 time grammy winner Michael Brecker, who called the work "one of the very best at bringing together the symphonic and jazz traditions". Other soloists featured on *View From Olympus* are New Zealand's own Michael Houstoun, and Portuguese percussionist Pedro Carneiro.

Rattle Records has been releasing award winning art music for 15 years, spanning contemporary classical, jazz, taonga pūoro (Māori instruments), world and electronica based forms.

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