

Graffiti Productions

Urban Jazz Not by the Rules

NEWS RELEASE

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Paul Serrato's AlterNations Implodes Musical Ideas

Lushly evocative jazz tracks show artists', composer's depths.

Omaha, Neb. – January 19, 2012-- New Yorkers who wonder where Paul Serrato has gone and are worried that his music has left the city need not worry. Serrato has relocated Graffiti Productions to his hometown Omaha, Nebraska, and one of the first things he's doing is to release his new CD "AlterNations", recorded in New York, on Saturday, January 21.

Although his new digs are considerably more pastoral than NYC, his music continues in his "urban jazz not by the rules" tradition. The arrangement of the offerings on "AlterNations" establishes a listening rhythm. The piano solos are interspersed among the band tracks giving listeners time to reflect between the full ensemble works.

The "AlterNations" program provides listeners with music of spirited lightness juxtaposed with more mysterious shadows, blues and world music sonorities. "AlterNations" performers are Serrato on the keyboard along with Reggie Pittman on trumpet, Elise Wood, flute, Bryce Sebastien bass, Warren Smith, marimba and percussion, and Lloyd Haber and Kevin Twigg on drums.

These highly creative and talented bring a buoyant energy "Waltzing on the Hudson", the lush odyssey of "Meltdown" and the rollicking "My Place Tonight". "My Place Tonight" is an original valentine to the traditional 32-bar song form arrangers used to love to arrange in the age of Broadway jazz", says Serrato.

The artists explore a freer, heated style in "Baghdad Blues" and "Spanish Flame" celebrating city living and giving the collection the feel of international intrigue.

"I believe music is a puzzle with many interlocking pieces. My compositions derive as much from enthusiasm for the contemporary chamber ensemble as the jazz line-up," Serrato said. "It is my conviction that, in art, taking chances is the antidote for

fixed ideas," he added. "Fixed ideas signify rules. In search of discovery artists love to battle rules."

Paul Serrato's Graffiti Productions label includes the 1991 Nexus, inspired by "Life and Death of a Graffiti Artist". Other Graffiti albums are: "Neon Palm Tree", 1996; "More Than Red", 2002; "Origami", 2004; "Excursions", 2005, and "Pianomania", 2007. "My Place Tonight", heard on HBO's Cinema Verite in 2011, is revived on "AlterNations". You can hear more of Serrato's music at <http://www.paulserrato.com>.