

THIS RECORDING came together over four casually scheduled sessions in 2016 & 2017, working around everyone's busy lives. It features my current small band on some of the new material the group is performing these days, as well as documenting some older stuff of mine that has never been recorded for one reason or another. Some of it is very experimental, some straight ahead, and the rest somewhere between, so the circular album title "OLD / IN / OUT / NEW" seemed fitting. All of the tunes have been performed by the quartet, but some of them obviously lend themselves to fuller arrangements, which allowed me to bring a bunch of my musical friends into the project. Many thanks to everyone involved for their great work! Two of the very few songs I have written lyrics for are included in this recording – Jen makes them both sound better than ever!

ELLA'S SONG (BM4) is an odd meter piece I wrote at my friend Jeff Moss's Ranch in the Rockies, while sitting on the deck enjoying the spectacular panoramic view, and watching his four-month-old Shepherd puppy (named Ella) relentlessly hunt and devour grasshoppers.

I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO (BM4 + trombones) is simply a group improv vehicle for a herd of trombones – old piece, but new arrangement - I was at loose-ends at home one day and this melody emerged from a meandering practice session...

FIN (BM4 + all guests) was originally composed for a community-based multi-media event called the Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival that focused on water issues, hence all the water imagery in the lyrics. It is a family oriented event, which elicited the nursery rhyme quotes at the beginning that evolve into a more serious tone – something for everyone. It has been performed many times in various forms – new arrangement, updated lyrics.

DARK (BM4) is a blues-variation that reflects the angst, confusion and self-inflicted negative spiritual feedback of those challenging times we all experience once in a while... heavy topic, fun tune!

GO FORTH (BM4 + Brad Turner and Rod Murray) is a high-energy group-improv piece with a melody that floats freely over a pseudo-Latin groove.

LET'S PLAY MAKE BELIEVE (AKA THRENOS) (BM4 + all guests) as a tune and its title have a convoluted history. An early version used the last section ("Threnos") of Shakespeare's metaphysical poem "The Phoenix and the Turtle" as the lyric. The "Let's Play Make Believe" version emerged from a more recent experimental project that light-heartedly addressed the subjects of perception, belief and perceived reality with the subtitle: "It's all make believe, so let's play!" Jim Hopson takes the trombone solo on this track. Thanks to Soressa Gardener for jump-starting the lyrics - the first line is hers.

LITTLE BROTHER (BM4) is a polytonal/modal Afro-Swing piece with an angular melody dedicated to my great friend and long-time musical cohort Jared Burrows who, being less mature than me (by age), gets the diminutive honorific.

WARP 7 (BM4) is not a Star Trek reference, nor is it a fast tune – slow moving open group-improv slowly morphs into a medium-tempo groove, then culminates with a quirky, quick-moving melody – all based on a changing odd-meter 7-bar form.



Enjoy the music!
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