

**THE NEW YORK
COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA**
Music by **MARTY EHRLICH,
ROBIN HOLCOMB, WAYNE HORVITZ
and DOUG WIESELMAN**

New World Records 80397

The New York Composers Orchestra was founded in 1986 with the purpose of commissioning and performing new works for jazz orchestra. Composers who have written for the band include Bobby Previte, Lenny Pickett, Elliott Sharp, Butch Morris, and Phillip Johnston, in addition to those included on this recording. The New York Composers Orchestra is directed by Robin Holcomb and Wayne Horvitz. The directors would like to thank all members of the band past and present, Roulette Intermedium Inc., the Greenwich House Music School, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, and Meet the Composer. Special thanks to Jim Staley, Arthur Moorhead, B.C. Veermersch, Ted Allen, and Bob Hurwitz.

Prodigal Son Revisited, *Nightbirds: open 24 Hours*, *The House That Brings a Smile*, and *With the Hammer Down* are published by Other Room Music/ASCAP. *After All* and *Pliant Plaint* are published by Dark Sounds Music/BMI/GEMA. *The Montana Section* and *Interlude* are published by Busmeat Music/BMI. *Fever* is published by Fort Knox Music, Inc./Trio Music (adm. by Hudson Bay Music, Inc.) BMI.

Prodigal Son Revisited was commissioned by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust and premiered at The Kitchen in 1988. The piece is built around variations on a riff from the Reverend Wilkins tune *Prodigal Son*, first heard by millions on the Rolling Stones album *Beggar's Banquet*. The featured soloists are Cleave Guyton and Art Baron, with Marty Ehrlich taking a few choruses during the final theme.

Fever is an arrangement of the classic tune popularized by Little Willie John. Literally hundreds of artists have performed this song, perhaps none so memorably as James Brown, Peggy Lee, and Buddy Guy. This arrangement features Stew Cutler and Ray Anderson and is dedicated to Dave Hofstra.

The House That Brings a Smile was premiered at Roulette in 1987. It was written shortly after the death of pianist Richard Manuel, a member of the group The Band, and is dedicated to his memory. Featured in the first of the piece's three movements is Lesli Dalaba, in the third, Marty Ehrlich. The title comes from lyrics to the song *When You Awake* from the album The Band. "Oly told me, I'm a fool, So I walked on down the road a mile, Came to the house that brings a smile."*

With the Hammer Down was commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where it was premiered in 1988. Stew Cutler is the soloist.---Wayne Horvitz

Nightbirds: Open 24 hours was commissioned by the New York Composers Orchestra and premiered at the Greenwich House Music School in 1987. The Version heard here is a revised arrangement, completed in January 1990. Throughout the piece players are instructed to attempt in their improvisations to evoke the calls of night birds heard during summer evenings in southern California. The title refers to a bar on Second Avenue in New York City.

—Robin Holcomb

After All and *Pliant Plaint* have both grown compositionally as their instrumentation has expanded from a quartet setting to large ensemble. The basis for *After All* is a kind of chorale. The "song" itself contrasts two harmonic feelings: similar, open-voiced chords moving forward (modulating) with similar chords moving in a circle (the attraction of the center). The introduction and the interlude after the solos are meant to heighten the drama of the harmonic contrast. Solos are by Marty Ehrlich and Herb Robertson.

Pliant Plaint mixes swing, double-time, stop-time, two-beat, shuffle, and textural rhythms. Six distinct melodic phrases move over or within these rhythms in a "pliant" manner. This is a shortened version of the original extended work. The improvisation is by Bobby Previte and Ray Anderson. *Pliant Plaint* was commissioned by the Musicians of Brooklyn Initiative (MOBI). *After All* was made possible with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

*When You Awake by Robbie Robertson and Richard Manuel © 1969 by Canaan Music, Inc. All rights Administered by EMI APRIL MUSIC INC. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

—Marty Ehrlich

The Montana Section and *Interlude* are excerpted from *Three Pieces for Wind Orchestra*, which was commissioned by the New York Composers Orchestra and premiered at the Greenwich House Music School in 1987. The inspiration for *The Montana Section* comes from the sound of the wind heard in the hills of Montana. Art Baron is the featured soloist in the beginning and Marty Ehrlich states the theme on bass clarinet. Interlude, originally titled Egg Music, was written for a troupe of performers juggling eggs.

—Doug Wieselmann

The New York Composers Orchestra

Cleave E. Guyton, Jr.--alto saxophone, flute. Robert DeBellis--alto saxophone, flute. Doug Wieselmann--tenor saxophone, clarinet. Marty Ehrlich--tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, bass clarinet. Jimmy Cozier--baritone saxophone. Ray Anderson--trombone. Art Baron--trombone. Dave Hofstra--tuba (on *The Montana Section* only). Vincent Chancey--French horn. Tom Varner--French horn (replaces Chancey on *After All* and *Pliant Plaint*). Herb Robertson--trumpet. Steven Bernstein--trumpet. Lesli Dalaba--trumpet. Robin Holcomb--piano. Wayne Horvitz--piano. Lindsey Horner--bass. Robert Previte--drums, marimba.

On Fever and *With the Hammer Down*:

Marty Ehrlich--alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, clarinet. Doug Wieselmann--tenor saxophone, clarinet. Ray Anderson--trombone. Art Baron--trombone. Stew Cutler--guitar. Robin Holcomb--piano. Wayne Horvitz--Hammond organ, piano, keyboards. Dave Hofstra--electric bass (on *Fever*). Robert Previte--drums.

Wayne Horvitz and Robin Holcomb appear courtesy of Elektra Nonesuch. Ray Anderson appears courtesy of Gramavision.

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The New York Composers Orchestra

- 1- Prodigal Son Revisited (Horvitz) (9:08)
- 2- Nightbirds: Open 24 Hours (Holcomb) (11:40)
- 3- After All (Ehrlich) (8:25)
- 4- The Montana Section (Wieselman) (3:42)
- 5- Fever (Davenport/Cooley) (6:48)
- The House that Brings a Smile (Horvitz) (9:03)
- 5- Part 1 (3:48)
- 7- Part 2 (1:34)
- 8- Part 3 (3:41)
- 9- Pliant Plaint (Ehrlich) (4:56)
- 10- With the Hammer Down (Horvitz) (5:09)
- 11- Interlude (Wieselman) (1:46)

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