

FUNK, GROOVE, HIP-HOP AND JAZZ INNOVATORS *DAPP THEORY* RELEASE LAYERS OF CHANCE, GROUP'S FIRST ALBUM IN FIVE YEARS

Release: April 1, 2008 on Contrology Records, North American distribution by ObliqSound via HBD/Koch

Dapp Theory, the quintet that blends "contemporary funk, groove and hip-hop into jazz with such seamless precision that it's almost freaky," is set to drop its new album Layers of Chance, on April 1. With a string of tour dates throughout the US and Canada in March and April, Dapp Theory is back.

On the new recording, Dapp Theory again displays an uncanny ability to blend various instrumental textures and infectious grooves, with lush harmonies and poignant, socially conscious lyrics. Founder **Andy Milne**, whose jazz cred is evidenced by his work with such acclaimed artists as **Ravi Coltrane**, **Ralph Alessi**, **Steve Coleman**, and **Cassandra Wilson**, as well as by being voted "Rising Star Keyboardist" by Down Beat Magazine, composed much of the music on Layers of Chance as part of the Chamber Music America "New Works" commission he received in 2006. His efforts to stretch the boundaries of jazz are met by the inventive quartet of musicians who join him on the new CD: **Loren Stillman** on alto and soprano saxophone, flute and clarinet; **Chris Tordini** on electric and acoustic bass; **Sean Rickman** on drums and percussion; and percussive poet **John Moon**.

In addition to the energy of new personnel, Dapp Theory's sound has evolved since their last recording. Explains Milne, "My goal was to take the rhythmic elements in my music and infuse them with increased melodic content and compositional structures to create music which at times becomes more richly orchestral. In recording the music, I was less concerned with what we do live and more concerned with having a broad color palette available to give the music an expansive sonic range."

Also broadening the palette on Layers of Chance are oudist **Gordon Grdina** (who guests on two tracks) and vocalists **Becca Stevens** and **LaTanya Hall** (who perform on the album's title track.) Both Stevens and bassist Chris Tordini studied under Milne at the New School, and their contributions to Layers of Chance are, says Milne, "a small nod to my goal to help young players find their voice within this music."

Layers of Chance has a compelling sound which fuses the energy of a Dapp Theory show with the polish of a finely tuned studio recording. A few of the album's selections, such as "SOS" and "Déjà vu," were songs that the band had been performing live for a while and have, in Milne's words, "a road tested quality to them." Others were composed specifically for the studio, so that their evolution would be enhanced in an environment that allowed the band to expand upon its live capabilities, and would only be limited by the available technology. Milne explains, "I had Loren playing instruments he normally doesn't play on gigs, adding clarinet and flute to the alto and soprano sax you'd hear live."

The album's title track is an intricate and robust model of this fresh compositional approach, while continuing to exemplify the musical and social principles that define Dapp Theory. "There are four vocal parts, each one its own melody, but together they co-exist, how I believe we should all be able to get together in the world," they magically enhance one another's presence, and together the whole is greater than the sum of all its individual parts," says Milne.

Still, the lush orchestration and multi-layered textures created in the studio are inhabited by the same energy and passion that have always marked Dapp Theory's live shows. "For example, where a track on the album features a string section, when we perform it live, I'll play the piano in a way that brings the same feel and emotion to the song that the strings do on the recording," Milne explains. "The live show is simpler in a way, but I don't think listeners will miss anything they experience on to the CD - it's still intense because of the great energy we put towards it live."

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Produced by Sean Rickman and Milne for his own **Contrology Records** imprint, Layers of Chance will be distributed in North America by NY-based **ObliqSound** via **HBD/Koch**. Last year, ObliqSound released Scenarios, Milne's acclaimed duet with harmonica phenom Gregoire Maret.

Since forming Dapp Theory in 1998 as a vehicle to “fuse socially conscious hip-hop inspired lyrics with harmonically rich grooves”, Milne has continued to grow as an artist. In addition to Scenarios, in 2007 he released **Dreams and False Alarms** [Songlines], his first solo piano disc, which features interpretations of 1960's era folk and pop music. Milne recently created a new collaboration for the London Jazz Festival with tap dancer Heather Cornell at the Banff Centre, (where he's been a frequent artist in residence), and his latest project, **Crystal Magnets** (a duo piano recording with French pianist Benoit Delbecq,) promises to surprise listeners to his richly expanding musical universe.

The current Dapp Theory touring lineup features, percussive poet John Moon and three of Milne's brightest rising star former students, (**John Beaty** – reeds, **Chris Tordini** – basses, **Kenny Grohowksi** – drums). Their sound continues to remain indefinable, yet highly recognizable, blending influences ranging from Joni Mitchell & KRS One to Thelonious Monk & Van Halen. It's an inspiration to those who may have lost faith in the future of jazz, proving it's alive and well with Layers of Chance.

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For one-sheet, artist photos, tour dates and additional press information, see www.obliqsound.com/press

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