

BLACK HAT RECORDS

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thanks for your interest in **BLACK HAT RECORDS**. We are proud to announce its fourth release: *an indefinite suspension of the possible* (Black Hat Records BH-1004) by COOKE QUINTET. CQ's approach to acoustic jazz allows for a new freedom of emotional expression. Combining solid grooves with bursts of energy and sound, COOKE QUINTET's music reminds a listener of the work of contemporaries such as Ken Vandermark, Ken Simon, or Elliot Levin. The instrumentation of CQ, however, presents a fresh twist on the classic jazz quintet — woodwinds, trombone, cello, koto and percussion can be heard interacting here. Additionally, modern forms for improvisation, such as circle music and pan-rhythmic pulse signatures, are center points for spontaneous inventions. Together, these five musicians collaborate in ways that might best and simply be described as "improvised group music."

Alex Kelly returns on cello for this new title, and drummer Timothy Orr stirs up a new concoction of rhythmic suggestions and allusions. Two new members of the group, Shoko Hikage on koto and Jen Baker on trombone, add an indispensable flavor and shading to the proceedings. Multi-instrumentalist Michael Cooke heads up the ensemble as both leader and contributor. The members of the Cooke Quintet have variously worked with contemporary music standouts such as ROVA, Cecil Taylor, Fred Frith, Ed Blackwell, Pauline Oliveros, Joan Jeanreud and Paul Drescher.

What sets *an indefinite suspension of the possible* apart from a number of jazz albums on the market today is the variety of styles and techniques employed to make this music. **Love at Twilight** references Tuvan and Indian music influences, **Ha-Me'aggel** uses a blended Klezmer scale, **N 36 7.46' W 121 38.35'** and **Loss** synthesize post-modern efforts in subjectivity, and **Harmonic Rebellion** is a high-energy improvisation that combines both multiphonic and harmonic releases. Another high-energy work, **Hard 8**, steers closest to traditional jazz, while **Chain of Existence**, a multi-section composition, encapsulates the outward-looking feel of the entire CD.

an indefinite suspension of the possible, has been heard on radio station across North America and Europe. This CD was #2 on the Weekly Jazz Top 10 on WNUR 89.3 FM in Chicago, & WRUV 90.1, in Burlington, VT ; #3 on the Weekly Jazz Top 10 on KUSF 90.3 in San Francisco; #7 on the Weekly Jazz Top 10 on CHRW 94.9 in London, Canada and #10 on the Weekly Jazz Top 10 on WFMU 91.1 in the New York City area just to name a few stations.

Our titles are distributed by North Country Distribution (Cadence Building, Redwood, New York 13679), and are available on iTunes. **BLACK HAT RECORDS** hopes you will enjoy our new release.

Sincerely,

Michael Cooke

Owner of **BLACK HAT RECORDS**
info@blackhatrecords.com

An adventure in Jazz

www.blackhatrecords.com

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Dear Sir or Madam:

BLACK HAT RECORDS is proud to announce its third release **The Is** (Black Hat Records BH-1003) by CKW Trio. CKW Trio's approach to acoustic post-modern jazz allows for a freedom of emotional expression. With solid grooves and explosions of energy and sound, CKW Trio's music reminds one of the music being played by Ken Vandermark and John Zorn's Masada. The instrumentation is similar to Julius Hemphill's trio; woodwinds, cello and percussion. CKW trio plays in a cutting edge jazz style making use of modern forms like circle music and experiments with time and rhythm. They use various non-western scales and sounds as central points for launching into improvisations. This adventure in jazz is created by the unique ideas of the members of the group.

Classically trained cellist and composer Alex Kelly has an eclectic background that involves both free-improvisation and circus music. Drummer Andrew Wilshusen comes from the domain of "jazz," but is always exploring new paths and beats in music. I find myself somewhat of a bridge between the two, with a background performing in both classical symphonies and jazz groups. It is my great pleasure to make music with both of them.

What makes **The Is** different from most of the jazz albums being created is the large variety of styles and techniques used to make the music on this adventurous CD. *Iram*, 大運河, 彩虹, has world

music influences and sounds. *Marchin' Home* are influenced by the blues. *Mondrian en Amérique* is a high-energy improvisation that is held together with a strict form. *R'zhii* takes you to the circus while *Alex in Wonderland* takes you on a multipart adventure. *Spirits* and *4+11m6m7* have classical music roots; *Augmented* maybe the closest to traditional jazz recorded on this release.

Like our other titles, **Statements** and **SEARCHING**, **The Is** explores new paths and combinations of styles and ideas that create our music. Our titles are now distributed by NorthCountry Distribution, Cadence Building, Redwood, New York 13679. **BLACK HAT RECORDS** hopes you will enjoy our new release.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL COOKE

Owner of **BLACK HAT RECORDS**
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Dear Sir or Madam:

BLACK HAT RECORDS is proud to announce its second release **Statements** (Black Hat Records BH-1002) by Michael Cooke. Our first release **SEARCHING** (Black Hat Records BH-1001) by the Cooke Quartet is still getting rave reviews. CQ features pianist Mel Nelson, bassist Alec Lytle, and drummer Sameer Gupta. For the CD we got help from percussionists Paul Fisher, Roland Robles, Greg Rosenberg and tanpura player Cliff Winnig. **BLACK HAT RECORDS** is also excited to announce that **SEARCHING** spent its' first three months on Amazon.com's best selling emerging artists list. To see some reviews of the album go to <http://www.blackhatrecords.com/reviews.html>.

Statements is a solo album, in the lines of Julius Hemphill's *Blue Boye*, Joe McPhee's *Tenor & Fallen Angels* and Anthony Braxton's *For Alto*. Michael plays all parts and instruments, including some bassoon and percussion. He has attempted to tell stories from his life, especially of the last two years, and in the process have collected a series of his own statements. **Statements** is an enhanced CD for PC and Mac. The enhancement contains an interview, art and poetry by Michael and other artists, information on the instruments used, the stories behind the songs and more. **Statements** has three different covers available with poems all by different artists. You can download them from the **BLACK HAT RECORDS** website, under the "Free Extras" section. Just print them out on your printer to replace the cover and tray card that comes with your version of **Statements**.

A gutsy and risk taking performance **SEARCHING** is a musical adventure for the Jazz enthusiast. Of the nine songs on the album, seven are original tunes. These songs are as eclectic as the band. The title song "Searching" has Latin roots with the three percussionists setting the groove. The beauty of "Nikita" offsets the aggressive nature of "Malcontent". Drawing from the many cultures of the San Francisco Bay area, "Goddess" uses tabla and tanpura to give the song an Indian flavor and "Coalescing" has Asian and classical hints. "The Source" is a solid modern jazz tune with an interesting bass groove. The group displays their avant-garde roots on jazz standards "Footprints" and "Lonely Woman" as they perform them with high energy and emotion. While **SEARCHING** is a quest for my voice in Jazz, it is also a musical adventure for all that listen. Our albums are nationally distributed by North Country Distribution and available from the Jazz Loft, Amazon, CD Baby and many more.

Statements and **SEARCHING** are a little different from most of the jazz albums being created by young players these days. It has no rock or pop influences and it tries to be as original as possible within a pure jazz idiom. In addition, Michael feels that saxophonists should have there own sound. Not the sound of one of his heroes or the sound everyone wants him to have but my own unique sound. **SEARCHING** is that quest for my sound and **Statements** is an attempt to speak with my sound. **BLACK HAT RECORDS** hopes you will enjoy our releases, **Statements** and **SEARCHING**.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL COOKE

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