



HILLMEN – The Whiskey Mountain Sessions

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Formed in 2007, the instrumental group Hillmen has just released their debut CD titled The Whiskey Mountain Sessions, on Djam Karet's new label Firepool Records. The group is Peter Hillman on drums, Gayle Ellett (Djam Karet) on organ & electric piano, Mike Murray (Djam Karet) on guitars, and Ralph Rivers on bass. Recorded live-in-studio without overdubs, this 43-minute CD features contemporary instrumental music at its dynamic best.

These four totally improvised pieces presented here are complete compositions recorded without edits, overdubs or computer manipulation. Hillmen perform in a style called Free Improvisation, in which they just tune up and play, with absolutely no predetermined structure, rhythm or key. This style features totally spontaneous creation of music, without the benefit or burden of a written score. No piece of music is ever played twice.

The goal of Hillmen is to create elastic compositions that grow, evolve, live and breathe, and change character over time. Where the composition itself becomes an organic, dynamic being. They believe that by following this path, their instrumental music can be a literal non-abstract representation of the living world. And as you listen to their music you really get the feeling that you are sitting in the room with the musicians themselves, watching as music is being created right before your ears!

Recorded in Topanga, California, the music on The Whiskey Mountain Sessions seamlessly blends the styles of Jazz, Fusion and Psychedelic music from the 1960's and 1970's with more modern sensibilities, creating a new hybrid style that is both traditional and contemporary. Combining the classic sounds of Hammond C-2, Rhodes piano, vintage guitars and amps, with state-of-the-art recording technology, these four jazzy compositions often begin as a hazy smoke filled space, and then evolve into a new, more clearly seen vision. It's rather like sailing out on the ocean on a foggy night, and then a majestic island slowly begins to come into view. Which is not surprising, given the fact that the album was recorded in a beautiful mountaintop studio overlooking Catalina Island and the deep blue Pacific Ocean,

All the members of Hillmen have been playing their instruments professionally for more than 25 years each, and it shows. Recorded with a crystal clear sound quality, their high level of professionalism shines through in their music. Experienced enough to know when to lay back and not over play, they create music that is filled with strong grooves, beautiful melodies and some truly wailing solos.

Free Improvisation works best when a group is able to combine the unique qualities of youthful creative abandon, with a deep and mature knowledge of music and mastery of their instruments. And it is towards these goals that the members of Hillmen aspire.

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The EPK Press Kit (with additional information, liner notes, photos, etc) is located at:

<http://djamkaret.com/firepoolrecords/hillmen>