



# FRANK KIMBROUGH

I like to imagine Frank sitting on a bench in the little park by his apartment in Queens, or perhaps strolling through Central Park. Maybe it's 1996 and he's got that ponytail, or maybe it's 2016 and he's got his Juilliardprofessor-look going. Either way, it's about 11:00 PM, he's got that half smile on his face that he was a little infamous for, one arm draped over the back rest, or slightly swinging at his sides and he's catching a melody.

There's something insubstantial about a jazz composition. Often just one page long, single notated lines over chord symbols little translucent scraps of melody and harmony, a lens to see the world through - an opening. I struggle sometimes with the juxtaposition of process and import. Supposedly, Duke Ellington wrote "Solitude" in 20 minutes because his band needed one more tune for a record date. Wayne Shorter is one of the

most remarkable musicians of the 20th century, but you wouldn't necessarily be wrong in saying his greatest achievement was the morning he spent writing the 16 measures of "Nefertiti". What a thought!

Frank didn't so much compose songs as discover them. He wrote almost all of them while wandering through the city. I want to call him a nocturnal lepidopterist, out with his butterfly net in the odd corners of the city but that's not really it. He wasn't precious about it, he didn't catalog his tunes, and he wasn't thirsting for any kind of rare discovery. Frank wrote music the same way he improvised, less the

Nabokovian madman with the net and more like that lady in Washington Square Park who feeds all the squirrels. The music came to him.

As a student of Frank's I used to marvel at his ability to hear music away from the piano. He had perfect pitch and a preternatural ability to hear polyphony in his head. He could hear these huge nine-note chords spelled out, not unheard of amongst professional musicians, but Frank brought a certain effortlessness to it. It felt superhuman to me, like he had some kind of supercomputer in his brain doing double-time computations. But Frank was also the man famous for the

"hang." He was the guy you had three hour dinners with. or went on five hour walks with. Frank's approach wasn't about feats of uncanny ear training. He didn't practice music away from the piano just because he could, he did it because that's where the music was. The music is not in the practice room, and it's not on the cell phone (which Frank never owned. a remarkable achievement for a freelancing musician reliant on getting called for gigs). You have to go out in the world and be present for it. The music is the city, the parks, and the quiet of a nighttime stroll, but mostly, the music is other people. It's the connections you build that make you the musician

that you are. I never realized this until after Frank died, but for me he came closest to marrying the spirit of musical improvisation to the way he lived. Frank's genius was profoundly human.

You only have to listen to a couple of these songs to hear how much Frank was loved in this community. During the session, there was a lot of awkward elbow/fistbump-Covid handshakes and a general feeling of surreality just to be sharing space with other humans. But then the music would start and it was absolutely thrilling, as if all of this kinetic energy had been stored up over the past 14 months just looking for an outlet. There are 67

musicians on this record and we recorded 61 tracks in three and half days. I felt like I was floating in air through most of it. It was a very ambitious project that somehow ran ahead of schedule. We even captured 7 extra songs that we didn't plan on as people flipped through Frank's tunes asking, "Hey, can the four of us try this one?" Most of the ensembles had at least two people that had never played together. Some musicians were reuniting to play together for the first time in decades. There are at least four generations of musicians represented on this record, students, colleagues, friends and bandmates of Frank. all wanting to pay tribute. And of course, maybe the biggest

tribute was to have Frank pull us all together, for one big hang, after this god-awful year.

But I keep coming back to these tunes. When I envisioned this project, I had about 15 charts of Frank's and I figured I could rustle up a couple more. When I got in touch with Ron Horton, he offered to scan and send over what he had from Frank's files and his own archives. He sent me 90 tunes. I've spent the last couple of months playing these tunes, both at the piano and as I wander my own environment. Some I knew, many I never heard, many have never been recorded 1 was struck by their integrity and consistency. Frank knew

exactly what he was about even back in 1979. He never wrote something just to try out a new style or a concept. They are strikingly specific in their shape, as far as I can tell he had to essentially create his own harmonic vocabulary just to capture what he was hearing, and yet they are wide open in the particulars. That reminds me of Monk and Wayne Shorter. Duke too. Frank would argue strenuously to the contrary, but I'm comfortable putting Frank in the conversation with any of the great jazz composers. There's so much life in this music and it makes me miss Frank too god-damned much.

l get great comfort from hearing a miniature reflection of Frank's life in this record. All those relationships that Frank fostered bouncing off each other - an afterglow of all the love Frank put out in the world. Our legacies live, not in the monuments we leave behind, but in the way things spin forward from us. So, despite the inspiration I feel in holding Frank's book of music in my hands, I know that these musical haikus don't encapsulate a life. But when I flip through these songs, and hear clumsily in my head what Frank heard in brilliant color, what comes to mind is a roadmap for how one man can sit on a park bench in Queens and change the world

-Elan Mehler



## 01 The Call

#### 07:34 Riley Mulherkar (Trumpet). Al

Scott Robinson (Tenor Saxophone), Riley Mulherkar (Trumpet), Allan Chase (Alto Saxophone), Ryan Keberle (Trombone), Samora Pinderhughes (Piano), Ben Wolfe (Bass), Jeff Hirshfield (Drums)

## 02 C Minor Waltz 04:58

Dave Douglas (Trumpet), Alexa Tarantino (Alto Saxophone), Todd Neufeld (Guitar), Rufus Reid (Bass), Matt Wilson (Drums)

## 3 Kudzu

#### 07:24

Steve Wilson (Alto Saxophone), Ben Rosenblum (Piano), Marty Jaffe (Bass), Douglas Marriner (Drums)

## 04 Elegy for P.M. 04:35

Joe Lovano (Tenor Saxophone), Craig Taborn (Piano), Ben Monder (Guitar)

## 05 Falling Waltz 05:13

Helen Sung (Piano), Dezron Douglas (Bass), Allan Mednard (Drums)

## 06 Forsythia 06:49

Kirk Knuffke (Trumpet), Micah Thomas (Piano), Rob Jost (Bass), Jeff Williams (Drums)

## 07 Quickening 04:04

Micah Thomas (Piano), Ben Allison (Bass), Jeff Williams (Drums)

## 08 Whirl 03:32

Gary Versace (Piano), Martin Wind (Bass), Dave Treut (Drums)

09Wings04:15Scott Robinson (Tenor Saxophone), Elan Mehler (Piano)

## 10 Hope 06:41

Ted Nash (Tenor Saxophone), Gary Versace (Piano), Ben Wolfe (Bass), Jeff Hirshfield (Drums)

## 11 Clara's Room 05:34

Ron Horton (Trumpet), Immanuel Wilkins (Alto Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), John Hébert (Bass), Billy Drummond (Drums)

## 12 For Duke (Instrumental) 04:15

Steve Wilson (Alto Saxophone), Ben Rosenblum (Piano), Marty Jaffe (Bass), Rich Rosenzweig (Drums)

## 13 Lullabluebye 07:26

Glenn Zaleski (Piano), Dezron Douglas (Bass), Allan Mednard (Drums)

## 14 For Jimmy G. 05:55

Ron Horton (Trumpet), Michael Blake (Tenor Saxophone), Sean Mason (Piano), Michael Formanek (Bass), Billy Drummond (Drums)

## 15 November 06:49

Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), John Hébert (Bass)

## 16Adrian's Way05:42

Dan Tepfer (Piano), Rufus Reid (Bass), Matt Wilson (Drums)

#### 17 Sadness 05:13

Noah Preminger (Tenor Saxophone), Glenn Zaleski (Piano)

## 18 Helix 05:59

Joe Lovano (Tenor Saxophone), Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), John Hébert (Bass), Clarence Penn (Drums)

#### 19The Breaks05:06

Elio Villafranca (Piano), Alexis Cuadrado (Bass), Satoshi Takeishi (Drums)

#### 20 20 Bars 07:30

Elan Mehler (Piano), Martin Wind (Bass), Francisco Mela (Drums)

#### 21 Ancestors 06:12

Jesse Neuman (Trumpet), Allan Chase (Baritone Saxophone), Steve Cardenas (Guitar), Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)

## 22 Kids Stuff 04:57

Kirk Knuffke (Trumpet), Rich Perry (Tenor Saxophone), Micah Thomas (Piano), Ben Allison (Bass), Jeff Williams (Drums)

#### 23 Meantime 05:37

Gary Versace (Piano), Martin Wind (Bass), Francisco Mela (Drums)

## 24 Capricorn Lady 05:37

Ted Nash (Soprano Saxophone), Gary Versace (Piano)

#### 25 Waltz for Lee 04:43

Riley Mulherkar (Trumpet), Scott Robinson (Tenor Saxophone), Ryan Keberle (Trombone), Allan Chase (Baritone Saxophone), Samora Pinderhughes (Piano), Jay Anderson (Bass), Jeff Hirshfield (Drums), Ryan Truesdell (Arrangement)

#### 26 727 04:52

Dave Douglas (Trumpet), Joe Lovano (Tenor Saxophone), Craig Taborn (Piano), John Hébert (Bass), Clarence Penn (Drums)

#### 27 Beginning

#### 04:48

Steve Wilson (Soprano Saxophone), Ben Rosenblum (Piano), Marty Jaffe (Bass), Douglas Marriner (Drums)

## 28 Southern Lights 04:56

Noah Halpern (Trumpet), Joel Wenhardt (Piano), Martin Wind (Bass), Dave Treut (Drums)

#### 29 Regeneration 07:08

Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ron Horton (Trumpet), Craig Taborn (Piano), John Hébert (Bass), Clarence Penn (Drums)

## 30 A & J 05:48

Alexa Tarantino (Alto Saxophone), Dan Tepfer (Piano), Rufus Reid (Bass), Matt Wilson (Drums)



#### 31 Eventualities 06:15

Immanuel Wilkins (Alto Saxophone), Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Sean Mason (Piano), Michael Formanek (Bass), Billy Drummond (Drums)

#### 32 Moonflower 02:24

Alexa Tarantino (Alto Saxophone), Dan Tepfer (Piano)

## 33 Just Suppose 05:01

Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)

## 34 Reluctance (Quartet) 06:55

Todd Neufeld (Guitar), Dan Tepfer (Piano), Rufus Reid (Bass), Jeff Cosgrove (Drums)

#### 35 Areas (Trumpet, Piano, Bass) 03:36

Dave Douglas (Trumpet), Craig Taborn (Piano), John Hébert (Bass)

36 The Spins 05:31

Ben Rosenblum (Piano), Rob Jost (Bass), Rich Rosenzweig (Drums)

37 Sanibel Island 05:04

Scott Spivak (Piano)

## 38 Fubu 06:55

Noah Preminger (Tenor Saxophone), Glenn Zaleski (Piano), Ben Allison (Bass), Allan Mednard (Drums)

#### 39 Cascade Rising 05:14

Rich Perry (Tenor Saxophone), Helen Sung (Piano), Ben Allison (Bass)

## 40 Over 03:57

Michael Blake (Tenor Saxophone), Ron Horton (Trumpet), Michael Formanek (Bass), Tony Moreno (Drums)

04:22

## 41 Blue Smoke 03:47

Jesse Neuman (Trumpet), Evan Harris (Tenor Saxophone), Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)

## 42 Air

Dave Douglas (Trumpet), Craig Taborn (Piano), Jeff Cosgrove (Drums)

## 43 Affirmation 04:17

Steve Wilson (Alto Saxophone), Elan Mehler (Piano), Rob Jost (Bass), Rich Rosenzweig (Drums)

### 44 Quiet as It's Kept

Riley Mulherkar (Trumpet), Samora Pinderhughes (Piano), Ben Wolfe (Bass), Jeff Hirshfield (Drums)

06:09

07:57

## 45 TMI

Ron Horton (Trumpet), Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), Ben Allison (Bass), Douglas Marriner (Drums)

## 46 Time Will Tell 06:42

Patrick Cornelius (Alto Saxophone), Ben Rosenblum (Piano), Marty Jaffe (Bass), Douglas Marriner (Drums)

#### 47 Areas (Piano, Bass, Drums) 04:41

Micah Thomas (Piano), Rob Jost (Bass), Jeff Williams (Drums)

#### 48 Noumena 05:15

Ron Horton (Trumpet), Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), John Hébert (Bass)

#### 49 Sloppy Seconds 05:20

Michael Blake (Tenor Saxophone), Isaiah J. Thompson (Piano), Michael Formanek (Bass), Tony Moreno (Drums)

## 50 Reluctance (Solo Piano) 04:11

Fred Hersch (Piano)

#### 51 Grass Valley

Jesse Neuman (Trumpet), Evan Harris (Tenor Saxophone), Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)

06:20

#### 52 Questions the Answer 05:28

Elio Villafranca (Piano), Alexis Cuadrado (Bass), Satoshi Takeishi (Drums)

### 53 Lucent 06:06

Scott Robinson (Tenor Saxophone), Steve Cardenas (Guitar), Jay Anderson (Bass), Jeff Hirshfield (Drums)

#### 54 No Radio 04:26

Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)

#### 55 For Carla 03:24

Ron Horton (Trumpet), Donny McCaslin (Tenor Saxophone), Ben Monder (Guitar), John Hébert (Bass)

#### 56 Ode 03:40

Elan Mehler (Piano), Michael Formanek (Bass), Tony Moreno (Drums)

#### 57 St. Mark's Place 05:24

Alexa Tarantino (Alto Saxophone), Dan Tepfer (Piano), Rufus Reid (Bass), Matt Wilson (Drums)

#### 58 Ca'lina

## 05:56

Jacob Sacks (Piano)

### 59 Hymn

04:05

11:05

Noah Preminger (Tenor Saxophone), Helen Sung (Piano), Ben Allison (Bass), Jeff Williams (Drums)

## 60 Svengali

Noah Halpern (Trumpet), Ted Nash (Clarinet), Allan Chase (Alto Saxophone), Scott Robinson (Tenor Saxophone), Joel Wenhardt (Piano), Martin Wind (Bass), Francisco Mela (Drums), Ryan Truesdell (Arrangement)

#### 61 For Duke (Vocals)

04:56

Olivia Chindamo (Vocals), Evan Harris (Tenor Saxophone), Addison Frei (Piano), Tony Scherr (Bass), Tim Horner (Drums)





# PERSONNEL

#### Allison, Ben

BASS

07 Quickening 22 Kids Stuff 38 Fubu 39 Cascade Rising 45 TMI 59 Hymn

## Anderson, Jay

25 Waltz for Lee 53 Lucent

#### Blake, Michael

TENOR SAXOPHONE

14 For Jimmy G. 40 Over 49 Sloppy Seconds

#### Cardenas, Steve

GUITAR

21 Ancestors 53 Lucent Chase, Allan

SAXOPHONE

01 The Call 21 Ancestors 25 Waltz for Lee 60 Svengali

#### Chindamo, Olivia

VOCALS 61 For Duke (Vocals)

Cornelius, Patrick

46 Time Will Tell

# Cosgrove, Jeff

DRUMS

34 Reluctance (Quartet) 42 Air

#### Cuadrado, Alexis

BASS

19 The Breaks 52 Questions the Answer

#### Douglas, Dave

TRUMPET

02 C Minor Waltz 26 727 35 Areas (Trumpet, Piano, Bass) 42 Air

Douglas, Dezron

BASS

05 Falling Waltz 13 Lullabluebye

Drummond, Billy DRUMS

11 Clara's Room 14 For Jimmy G. 31 Eventualities

#### Formanek, Michael

BASS

14 For Jimmy G. 31 Eventualities 40 Over 49 Sloppy Seconds 56 Ode

## Frei, Addison

21 Ancestors 33 Just Suppose 41 Blue Smoke 51 Grass Valley 54 No Radio 61 For Duke (Vocals)

#### Halpern, Noah

TRUMPET

28 Southern Lights60 Svengali

#### Harris, Evan

TENOR SAXOPHONE

41 Blue Smoke 51 Grass Valley 61 For Duke (Vocals)

#### Hébert, John

BASS

11 Clara's Room 15 November 18 Helix 26 727 29 Regeneration 35 Areas (Trumpet, Piano, Bass) 48 Noumena 55 For Carla

## Hersch, Fred

PIANO

50 Reluctance (Solo Piano)

# Hirshfield, Jeff

01 The Call 10 Hope 25 Waltz for Lee 44 Quiet as It's Kept 53 Lucent

## Horner, Tim

DRUMS

21 Ancestors 33 Just Suppose 41 Blue Smoke 51 Grass Valley 54 No Radio 61 For Duke (Vocals)

#### Horton, Ron

TRUMPET

11 Clara's Room 14 For Jimmy G. 29 Regeneration 40 Over 45 TMI 48 Noumena 55 For Carla

#### Jaffe, Marty

03 Kudzu 12 For Duke (Instrumental) 27 Beginning

BASS

Jost, Rob

46 Time Will Tell

BASS 06 Forsythia 36 The Spins 43 Affirmation 47 Areas (Piano, Bass, Drums)

Keberle, Ryan

01 The Call 25 Waltz for Lee

#### Knuffke, Kirk

TRUMPET

06 Forsythia 22 Kids Stuff

Lovano, Joe

TENOR SAXOPHONE

04 Elegy for P.M. 18 Helix 26 727

#### Marriner, Douglas

DRUMS 03 Kudzu 27 Beginning 45 TMI 46 Time Will Tell

Mason, Sean

14 For Jimmy G. 31 Eventualities

#### McCaslin, Donny

TENOR SAXOPHONE

15 November 18 Helix 29 Regeneration 31 Eventualities 45 TMI 48 Noumena 55 For Carla

#### Mednard, Allan

DRUMS

05 Falling Waltz 13 Lullabluebye 38 Fubu

#### Mehler, Elan

09 Wings 20 20 Bars 43 Affirmation 56 Ode

PIANO

Mela, Francisco

DRUMS

20 20 Bars 23 Meantime 60 Svengali

Monder, Ben

GUITAR

04 Elegy for P.M. 11 Clara's Room 15 November 18 Helix 45 TMI 48 Noumena 55 For Carla

Moreno, Tony

40 Over 49 Sloppy Seconds 56 Ode Mulherkar, Riley

01 The Call 25 Waltz for Lee 44 Quiet as It's Kept

Nash, Ted

10 Hope 24 Capricorn Lady 60 Svengali

CLARINET

Neufeld, Todd GUITAR

02 C Minor Waltz 34 Reluctance (Quartet)

Neuman, Jesse

21 Ancestors 41 Blue Smoke 51 Grass Valley

Penn, Clarence

DRUMS 18 Helix 26 727 29 Regeneration Perry, Rich TENOR SAXOPHONE

22 Kids Stuff 39 Cascade Rising

# Pinderhughes, Samora

01 The Call 25 Waltz for Lee 44 Quiet as It's Kept

#### Preminger, Noah

TENOR SAXOPHONE

17 Sadness 38 Fubu 59 Hymn

#### Reid, Rufus

BASS

02 C Minor Waltz 16 Adrian's Way 30 A & J 34 Reluctance (Quartet) 57 St. Mark's Place

# Robinson, Scott

01 The Call 09 Wings 25 Waltz for Lee 53 Lucent 60 Svengali

## Rosenblum, Ben

03 Kudzu 12 For Duke (Instrumental) 27 Beginning 36 The Spins 46 Time Will Tell

#### Rosenzweig, Rich

DRUMS

12 For Duke (Instrumental) 36 The Spins 43 Affirmation

#### Sacks, Jacob PIANO

58 Ca'lina

Scherr, Tony

21 Ancestors 33 Just Suppose 41 Blue Smoke 51 Grass Valley 54 No Radio 61 For Duke (Vocals)

#### Spivak, Scott

PIANO

37 Sanibel Island

#### Sung, Helen

PIANO

05 Falling Waltz 39 Cascade Rising 59 Hymn

#### Taborn, Craig

PIANO

04 Elegy for P.M. 26 727 29 Regeneration 35 Areas (Trumpet, Piano, Bass) 42 Air Takeishi, Satoshi

19 The Breaks 52 Questions the Answer

#### Tarantino, Alexa

ALTO SAXOPHONE

02 C Minor Waltz 30 A & J 32 Moonflower 57 St. Mark's Place

#### Tepfer, Dan

PIANO

16 Adrian's Way 30 A & J 32 Moonflower 34 Reluctance (Quartet) 57 St. Mark's Place

#### Thomas, Micah

PIANO

06 Forsythia 07 Quickening 22 Kids Stuff 47 Areas (Piano, Bass, Drums) Thompson, Isaiah J.

49 Sloppy Seconds

PIANO

# Treut, Dave

08 Whirl 28 Southern Lights

Versace, Gary

08 Whirl 10 Hope 23 Meantime 24 Capricorn Lady

#### Villafranca, Elio

PIANO

19 The Breaks 52 Questions the Answer

#### Truesdell, Ryan

ARRANGEMENT

25 Waltz for Lee 60 Svengali

## Wenhardt, Joel

28 Southern Lights 60 Svengali

#### Wilkins, Immanuel

ALTO SAXOPHONE

11 Clara's Room 31 Eventualities

## Williams, Jeff

DRUMS

06 Forsythia 07 Quickening 22 Kids Stuff 47 Areas (Piano, Bass, Drums) 59 Hymn

#### Wilson, Matt

DRUMS

02 C Minor Waltz 16 Adrian's Way 30 A & J 57 St. Mark's Place

#### Wilson, Steve

ALTO AND SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

03 Kudzu 12 For Duke (Instrumental) 27 Beginning 43 Affirmation

#### Wind, Martin

BASS

08 Whirl 20 20 Bars 23 Meantime 28 Southern Lights 60 Svengali

#### Wolfe, Ben

BASS

01 The Call 10 Hope 44 Quiet as It's Kept

#### Zaleski, Glenn

PIANO

13 Lullabluebye 17 Sadness 38 Fubu



#### KIMBROUGH

All songs written by Frank Kimbrough (Kimbrough Music BMI) Recorded at EastSide Sound, New York, May 10-13, 2021 Recorded and Mixed by Marc Urselli Mastered by Colin Bryson Produced by Elan Mehler Executive Produced by Maitland Jones, Jim Harvey, Steve Satterfield, Matt Steinfeld, and JC Morisseau

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