

**POCONO GIT-DOWN**



**RICK HIRSCH'S BIG OL' BAND**

- 1 **GIDDYUP!** 4:53
- 2 **POCONO GIT-DOWN** 6:00
- 3 **TONIGHT, WE TANGO** 4:13
- 4 **WONDERFUL TONIGHT** (ERIC CLAPTON) 4:34
- 5 **THE OLD CHIEF'S LOOKOUT** 7:46
- 6 **METROLINER** 5:32
- 7 **THE WITCHING HOUR** 6:14
- 8 **MAMBO OVER THE MOUNTAIN** 4:26
- 9 **THE WAY YOU MAKE ME FEEL** (MICHAEL JACKSON) 4:00

Compositions and arrangements by  
Rick Hirsch (BMI) except where noted

FAN-FUNDED THROUGH KICKSTARTER

[WWW.BIGOLDBAND.COM](http://WWW.BIGOLDBAND.COM)

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## **RICK HIRSCH**

composer, arranger, conductor, ringleader, a couple tenor solos (STATE COLLEGE, PA)

**TIM POWELL** alto, soprano & tenor saxophones (GAITHERSBURG, MD)

**KATE ANDERSON** alto saxophone (HUNTERSVILLE, PA)

**GREG JOHNSON** tenor & soprano saxophones (SAN RAFAEL, CA)

**PETE BARENBRIDGE** tenor saxophone (UPPER MARLBORO, MD)

**OLIVER FAIRLEY** baritone saxophone (NEW CUMBERLAND, PA)

**EDDIE SEVERN** trumpet & flugelhorn—lead on tracks 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 (LOYALSOCK, PA)

**BRENT TURNEY** trumpet & flugelhorn—lead on tracks 2, 4, 6, 7 (STEVENS POINT, WI)

**DALE ORRIS** trumpet & flugelhorn (WINFIELD, PA)

**BARRY LONG** trumpet & flugelhorn (LEWISBURG, PA)

**JIM MCFALLS** lead trombone (ODENTON, MD)

**DAN WEINER** trombone (YARDLEY, PA)

**JAY VONADA** trombone (AARONSBURG, PA)

**WES THOMPSON** bass trombone (MEDIA, PA)

**STEVE RUDOLPH** piano, keyboard (HARRISBURG, PA)

**TIM BREON** guitar (WILLIAMSPORT, PA)

**JEFF BECK** electric bass (STATE COLLEGE, PA)

**KEVIN LOWE** drums (STATE COLLEGE, PA)

**BOB VELEZ** percussion (SCRANTON, PA)

## **GUEST MUSICIANS**

**ALEX MEIXNER** accordion on *Tonight, We Tango* (PALM CITY, FL)

**AGATHA WANG** piano intro on *The Witching Hour* (STATE COLLEGE, PA)

**JAMES WITHERITE** Nord on 1, Hammond B-3 on 2 & 3, piano on 8 (DOVER, DE)



Over 200 backers funded this album through a Kickstarter campaign. Your generous pledges of support gave us the means and the confidence to make this happen. This record would not have been made otherwise. Thank you.

## **SOLOISTS**

### **1 GIDDYUP!**

tenor – **GREG JOHNSON** • trombone – **JIM MCFALLS**

### **2 POCONO GIT-DOWN**

trombone – **JAY VONADA** • trumpet – **EDDIE SEVERN** • piano – **STEVE RUDOLPH**

### **3 TONIGHT, WE TANGO**

accordion – **ALEX MEIXNER** • tenor – **RICK HIRSCH**

### **4 WONDERFUL TONIGHT**

piano – **STEVE RUDOLPH**

### **5 THE OLD CHIEF'S LOOKOUT**

left trombone – **JIM MCFALLS** • right trombone – **JAY VONADA** • soprano – **GREG JOHNSON**

### **6 METROLINER**

tenor – **RICK HIRSCH**

### **7 THE WITCHING HOUR**

piano intro – **AGATHA WANG** • soprano – **TIM POWELL** • flugel – **EDDIE SEVERN**

### **8 MAMBO OVER THE MOUNTAIN**

alto – **KATE ANDERSON** • tenor – **PETE BARENBREGGE**

drums – **KEVIN LOWE** • percussion – **BOB VELEZ**

### **9 THE WAY YOU MAKE ME FEEL**

1st verse: **OLIVER FAIRLEY, DALE ORRIS, DAN WEINER, KATE ANDERSON**

2nd verse: **JAY VONADA, BRENT TURNEY, WES THOMPSON**

plunger trumpet – **BARRY LONG** • alto – **TIM POWELL** • trombone – **JIM MCFALLS**

Jazz ensemble arrangements available at **[WWW.HIRSCHMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.HIRSCHMUSIC.COM)**



**SPREAD AMONG** the small cities, college towns, and county seats of Pennsylvania is a community of great musicians—fantastic artists you may not know of who get together (often driving hours to meet) and make music that is every bit as creative and excellent as their big-city, big-name counterparts.

This isn't specific to Pennsylvania—it's like this all over. Regional jazz scenes are thriving beyond the fringes of major metro areas and throughout "flyover country." We've made this modern big band record to celebrate them.

Let me unpack *modern big band* for you. *Big Band* refers to the instrumentation we use—5 saxophones, 8 brass, and a rhythm section—a standard configuration since the 1930s. *Modern* refers to the fact that the music we perform is brand new. You might say that the body of the car is vintage, but the interior and the way it handles are totally up-to-date.

I've been involved with modern big band music for 30-odd years, ever since high school. And I've been writing music like this for 20, so I've had a lot of time to think about recording an album. But, the logistics of pulling this off—especially with the musicians spread so far and wide—seemed daunting.

When the pieces of the puzzle came together in early 2016, my first move was to assemble the dream band. I called up 20 of my favorite musician-friends, all with strong ties to Central PA, where I have lived for the past 17 years.



Because I know these musicians well, I have the luxury of writing them into musical situations in which they'll really shine. Like Alex's accordion work on *Tango*, Steve's improvised intro on *Wonderful Tonight*, Greg's soprano solo on *Old Chief*, and the Beck-Lowe rhythm team on *Giddyup!* and *Metroliner*.

Equally important is the fact that we all like each other. The feeling of mutual respect and love is clear when you listen to the album.

Ultimately, we hope that your day will get a bit brighter when you listen to this music. And that you are able to appreciate and support the regional jazz scene in your neck of the woods.

Enjoy!

RICK HIRSCH





## **ABOUT THE MUSIC**

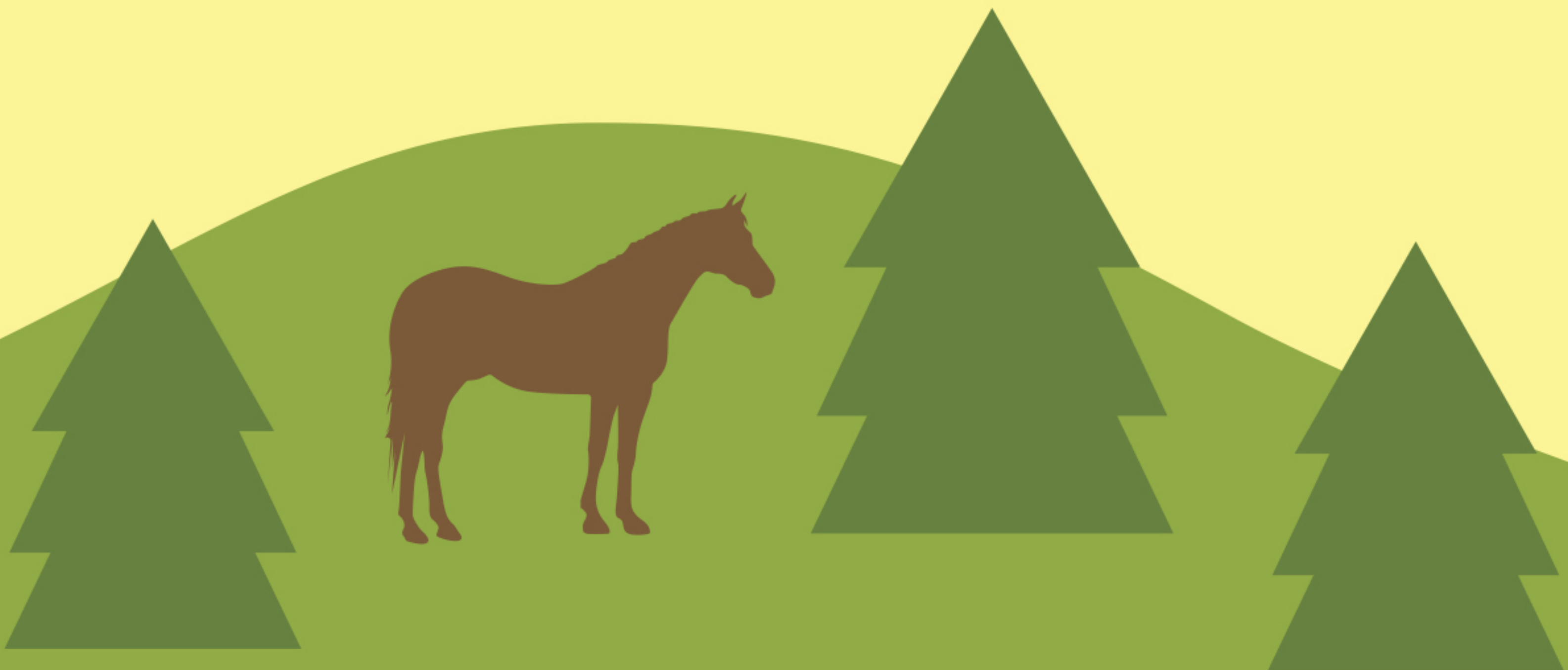
**GIDDYUP!** is here to get you moving right out of the gate. And if you're keeping score, the first half of the tune is in a modified *rondo* form. All bets are off after that.

**POCONO GIT-DOWN** is an ol' timey Saturday night barn dance. Come together, let your hair down, and have a good time.

A long-stemmed rose may come in handy for **TONIGHT, WE TANGO**.

**THE OLD CHIEF'S LOOKOUT** portrays Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania's Chimney Rocks a few hundred years ago, when the land was inhabited by Susquehannock indians. All is calm in the valley below—until it isn't.

**WONDERFUL TONIGHT** is simply a pretty song. I changed a few of the harmonies, but otherwise left the tune intact.



The **METROLINER** was a high-speed train connecting Washington, DC and New York City. The tenor starts our journey, with drums, bari, and the other saxes getting on at successive stops. Then we're really rolling.

**THE WITCHING HOUR** is that time in the quiet of the night when the ghosties and ghoulies come out to play. It also occurs when toddlers stay up well past their bedtimes.

If you've got to make the trip from State College to Huntingdon—and you feel like dancing—you just might **MAMBO OVER THE MOUNTAIN**.

**THE WAY YOU MAKE ME FEEL** is dedicated to *you*. It should really be *The Way You Make Us Feel*. Dig the individual statements from about half the band in this arrangement.

All titles published by Eric Andrew Hirsch (BMI) except for *Wonderful Tonight* by Unichappell Music OBO Eric Patrick Clapton Music and *The Way You Make Me Feel* by Sony/ATV Songs LLC Mi-Jac Music.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND COMBO ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE AT  
**[WWW.HIRSCHMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.HIRSCHMUSIC.COM)**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**I AM THANKFUL** for my family above all. My wife Rebecca, to whom this album is dedicated, has been my rock and my love for 25 years, ever since we met in a dark basement on a gig with my college funk band. Our daughters Anna, Eva, and Ellie are the brightest lights in my life. And my mom and dad have been a font of unconditional love and support for 46 years (and counting).

To the musicians, recording experts, and visual artists involved with this project: you are my dream team.

To others in my musical life:

Dan Yoder for mentorship, friendship, and being the first person to buy one of my big band charts. Ron Modell for being a loving mentor and role model. Bob Mintzer for inspiration and encouragement. The musicians in the Zeropoint and River City Big Bands for road-testing this music. The River City Blues Club for graciously hosting us for our studio warm-up gig.

I am humbled by the generous support of all 205 Kickstarter backers, and want to acknowledge those who pledged at various liner-note levels: Basil, Betsy Alekman, Dean Barker, David Blandford & Katharine Hassapoyannes, Jerry Burton, John & Debbie Carder, Eileen Christman, Deeb, Tom & Leesa Folmar, Blake & Linda Gall, Jeff & Alice Hirsch, Ken & Sherry Hirsch, Michelle Hirsch, Steve & Lisa Hopkins, Carrie Jackson, Peter & Julia Kiefer, Kristina & Erik Krohnemann, Jim & Carol Lowe, Sharon Lynn, Alex Meixner, Ron & Kathy Modell, Annemarie Mountz in memory of Bill Mountz, Russell Nash, Jon Perini, Jessica & Emily Redmond, Chuck Smith, Dave Sporny, and the Supina family.



## **COMMISSIONS**

I am grateful to all who support my work by commissioning new music for their students.

### **GIDDYUP!** and **THE WITCHING HOUR**

Paul Leskowicz and the State College Area HS Jazz Band.

### **MAMBO OVER THE MOUNTAIN**

Jordan Canner and the Huntingdon Area HS Jazz Band.

### **METROLINER**

Chris Vadala and the University of Maryland Jazz Band.

### **THE OLD CHIEF'S LOOKOUT**

Scott Sheehan and the Hollidaysburg Area HS Jazz Band.

### **POCONO GIT-DOWN**

Eric Warner and the Wallenpaupack Area HS Jazz Band.

### **TONIGHT, WE TANGO**

Dean Barker, dedicated to the memory of his childhood friend Scotty Auby.

## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

**PRODUCED BY** RICK HIRSCH & ALEX MEIXNER

**ASSISTANT PRODUCER** JAMES WITHERITE

**RECORDED BY** KENT HECKMAN July 20 & 21, 2016 at Red Rock Recording in Saylorsburg, PA.

Agatha's *Witching Hour* piano intro recorded by BOB KLOTZ August 19, 2016 at Penn State University's Studio A, University Park, PA

**MIXED BY** RICK HIRSCH & KENT HECKMAN

**MASTERED BY** KENT HECKMAN

**DESIGN BY** EMILY BURNS of Drawstring Design Co.

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY** BOB WEIDNER



