

JAMIE STEWARDSON
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JAMIE STEWARDSON, GUITAR
NOAH PREMINGER, TENOR SAX
ALEXEI TSIGANOV, VIBRAPHONE
FERNANDO HUERGO, BASS
GEORGE SCHULLER, DRUMS



"Jazz captures a moment in time -- it exists in an eternal now. But it also reflects a span of time -- a musician's personal history -- the sum total of an improviser's life experience. Guitarist Jamie Stewardson's album is no exception. It captures a band that came together under specific circumstances to play music in the moment. The music they play arises from Stewardson's need to braid together the various strands of his life into a coherent pattern, to make beauty from experience, to search and grow as an artist. You can hear a life's worth of experience in every note of the music.The players on Jhaptal include some of the best jazz musicians on the East Coast." — Ed Hazel

"...Tsiganov's free-floating feel is a neat foil to the steely improvising of both Malaby and Stewardson. Hebert and Schuller are equal partners, free to roam at will within the guitarist's democratic structures, stretching and containing the music as structures fade in and out....Certainly there are echoes of other East Coast groups operating at the sharp end of contemporary jazz, but Stewardson's unique frame of reference and well-chosen instrumentation give this group a refreshing identity." — Fred Grand, Jazz Review (UK)

**FRESH SOUND/NEW TALENT
RELEASES GUITARIST JAMIE
STEWARDSON'S EXCEPTIONAL NEW
CD JHAPTAL**

Listen to excerpts from Jhaptal
<http://www.jamiestewardson.com/work/>

IN THE NEWS

"Stewardson is an exceptional jazz guitarist and a courageous leader. As a soloist he is full of boundless invention, turning the melody (and he knows what melody is) around on a dime and coaxing the music into places it didn't know it wanted to go. As an accompanist he's supportive and strong..." — Jeff Tamarkin, All Music Guide
"Jamie Stewardson is a striking player... [His] guitar has just a touch of distorted bite, recalling early John McLaughlin, or Kevin Eubanks with Dave Holland... This is advanced, tough-skinned music, meticulous in structure but without a hint of academic stiffness." — David Adler, JazzTimes

JAMIE STEWARDSON BIO

JAMIE STEWARDSON

Originally from Denver Colorado, guitarist/composer Jamie Stewardson has performed and recorded with Matt Maneri, Tony Malaby, John Hebert, Oscar Stagnaro, George Schuller, George Russell, George Schuller, Jimmy Guiffre, Bob Gullotti, Fernando Huergo, Jeremy Udden, John Lockwood and many others.

“Stewardson sets the pace as a soloist with his bold sound and sure sense of spontaneous melody. You can hear his youthful infatuation with rock and his admiration of John McLaughlin in his big, bright, assertive tone. It’s tempered by his understanding of jazz interaction, and a keen sense of color and dynamics, so he’s an uplifting presence, a goad to more joyful playing”... Ed Hazel

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MEMBERS OF THE BAND

NOAH PREMINGER, TENOR SAX

Born in 1986, Preminger grew up in Canton, Connecticut and released his debut album, *Dry Bridge Road*, just after graduating from the New England Conservatory of Music. The recording was a sextet session with top-line players from the New York scene: Monder, pianist Frank Kimbrough, trumpeter Russ Johnson, bassist John Hébert, drummer Ted Poor. *Jazz Review* said: "Preminger seems to have arrived on the scene fully formed, with incisive musical instincts, a distinctive personal sound and an ability to write great tunes." The *New York Times* added: "More than just a promising starting point, this is a display of integrity; here's a musician you feel you can trust."



ALEXEI TSIGANOV, VIBRAPHONE

Tsiganov is an award winning jazz vibraphonist in Russia, moved to Boston to study with Gary Burton at the Berklee College of Music. He performs regularly in NYC with Norman Headman's *Tropique*, and has performed with Boston and New York area musicians such as Bob Moses, Bruce Gertz, Dave Clark, Claudio Roditi, Avery Sharpe and Chico Freeman.



FERNANDO HUERGO, BASS

Born in Córdoba, Argentina, bassist Fernando Huergo has been featured on over one hundred albums, including nine as a leader. Huergo has performed and recorded with Gilberto Gil, Grammy nominated vocalist Luciana Souza, and vocal legend Elis Regina's long-time pianist and arranger Cesar Camargo Mariano. He has worked with guitarists Kurt Rosenwinkel and Ben Monder, saxophonists Mark Turner, David Sanchez and Miguel Zenon, drummers Paulo Braga, Portinho, Antonio Sanchez, Dave Weckl, Dafnis Prieto and Jorge Rossi. Additionally, he has performed with Guillermo Klein, Marta Gómez, Danilo Perez, Hendrick Meurkens, Dave Liebman, Dave Samuels, Paquito D'Rivera, Kenny Werner, Mike Stern, Don Byron, and Claudio Roditi and many others.

GEORGE SCHULLER, DRUMS

Schuller was a longtime fixture on the Boston jazz scene before moving to New York in 1994. Since then, he's worked with musicians ranging from Britt Woodman and Mose Allison, to Lee Kontiz, Danilo Perez, and Michael Musillami.

<http://www.georgeschuller.net/index.html>

"Schuller has one of the most unique approaches to drums in jazz, sensitivity to group dynamics that allows him to perfectly gauge and adjust the volume, color, and drive of his playing. Unlike many drummers, he rarely dominates an ensemble, but he also never fails to play exactly what's needed." – Ed Hazel



REVIEWS

IN THE NEWS

JAMIE STEWARDSON

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"Jamie Stewardson is a striking player...[His] guitar has just a touch of distorted bite, recalling early John McLaughlin, or Kevin Eubanks with Dave Holland... This is advanced, tough-skinned music, meticulous in structure but without a hint of academic stiffness." – David Adler, [JazzTimes](#)

"Echoes of serialism and Indian Classical music occasionally surface, but are never allowed to choke what is first and foremost an improviser's freebop outfit... Stewardson's unique frame of reference and well-chosen instrumentation give this group a refreshing identity." – Fred Grand, [Jazz Review](#) (UK)

"Jazz criticism over the past sixty years has maintained that many performances are either too edgy or too smooth. With the liquid texture of his blues-based guitar performance and the consistent shuffle of his ensemble's interpretations, Stewardson has come up with an equitable solution." – Jim Santella, [All About Jazz](#)

"Jamie Stewardson has stepped up to the composer's plate and has rallied to the cause... Stewardson's compositional bent is something to be reckoned with. He uses rich, precise melodic and harmonic lines to paint his music..." – George W. Carroll, [Ejazznews](#)

"Firmly rooted in post bop harmony and odd-metered rhythms, Stewardson and company add an inventive twist to an often staid genre... Stewardson demonstrates the kind of creative potential that so few seem capable of in mainstream jazz." – Troy Collins, [All About Jazz](#)

"4-stars. Stewardson is an excellent young guitarist and even better composer... the music is vibrantly alive and several notches above the pack." – Ray Comiskey, [Irish Times](#)

"Simmering tension over a feeling of just-contained tranquility by an ensemble that bounces and stings on a set of cerebral but approachable compositions makes *Jhaptal* a very worthy modern jazz offering." – Dan McClenaghan, [All About Jazz](#)

"Excellent!" – Bob Morello, [Boston Post-Gazette](#)

FSNT RELEASE

FRESH SOUND/NEW TALENT RELEASES GUITARIST JAMIE STEWARDSON'S EXCEPTIONAL NEW CD *JHAPTAL*

*** Stewardson with Tony Malaby, Alexei Tsiganov, John Hebert and George Schuller ***

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Fresh Sound New Talent is pleased to announce the release of *Jhaptal*, guitarist Jamie Stewardson's second CD as a leader. The CD features Stewardson with his quintet - **Tony Malaby** on tenor sax, **Alexei Tsiganov** on vibes, and **John Hebert** on bass, and **George Schuller** on drums - in a set of nine originals drawing upon Stewardson's wide interests and experiences in subtle and surprising ways. Mahavishnu's "Vision of the Emerald Beyond", Gustav Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder", Arnold Schoenberg's dodecaphonics, Ornette Coleman's harmolodics, and music of the Indian subcontinent, all echo within the music.

Stewardson's interest in Indian music emerges on "Jhaptal," which uses a 10 beat rhythmic cycle. He says that Schoenberg's serial music ideas inspired his approach to many of these compositions. But Stewardson felt free to bend the strict rules governing tone rows if doing so resulted in a melody, a bass line, or a harmony he liked. Tunes like "Combinatoriality" and "I Can Shuffle" are serial music with a human face, in which the needs of the heart count for as much as the inventions of the mind. The melody of "Dig Muse" is drawn out to extreme length without ever losing its interest or sense of direction. In several of the tunes, such as "Bubbles" and "Rest Area," he layers lines, creating fascinating internal tensions for the players to work with as they solo. Stewardson sets the pace as a soloist with his bold sound and sure sense of spontaneous melody. You can hear his youthful infatuation with rock and his admiration of John McLaughlin in his big, bright, assertive tone. It's tempered by his understanding of jazz interaction and a keen sense of color and dynamics, so he's an uplifting presence, a goad to more joyful playing.

When he took up the guitar at 15, like most kids that age, **Stewardson** dreamed of rock stardom. But listening to Mahavishnu Orchestra and Return to Forever drew him inexorably into the world of jazz. He pursued his music education at the University of Northern Colorado, Berklee College of Music, the Banff Jazz Workshop (where he studied with John Abercrombie), and later earned his Master's in jazz composition from Boston's New England Conservatory, where Joe Maneri and Mick Goodrick further broadened his horizons. Stewardson is currently a member of the faculty at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. He also plays guitar and bass with The David Zoffer Differential, performs with his own groups, and cites the influences of Geri Allen, Dave Holland and Maria Schneider in his jazz composition efforts. It says something about Stewardson's innate open-mindedness that he started his performing career aboard a cruise ship backing pop and soul oldies acts such as The O'Jays, The Temptations, Patti Page, and The Drifters, yet he wound up playing with George Russell, Jimmy Guiffre, and Mat Maneri, as well as the musicians on this CD.

The players on *Jhaptal* include some of the best jazz musicians on the East Coast. **Tony Malaby** is one of New York's most in-demand saxophonists. He's worked in bands led by Paul Motian, Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, Tim Berne, Mark Helias, and many others, in addition to leading his own groups. Bassist **John Hebert** is likewise well traveled in New York jazz circles, having worked with Maria Schneider, Andrew Hill, Greg Osby, and Roy Campbell, among others. He is the co-leader along with pianist Russ Lossing and saxophonist Adam Kolker of Change of Time, a trio dedicated to exploring the music of Bela Bartok. Drummer **George Schuller** was a longtime fixture on the Boston jazz scene before moving to New York in 1994. Since then, he's worked with musicians ranging from Britt Woodman and Mose Allison, to Lee Kontiz, Danilo Perez, and Michael Musillami. **Alexei Tsiganov**, an awarding winning jazz vibraphonist in Russia, moved to Boston to study with Gary Burton at the Berklee College of Music. He performs regularly in NYC with Norman Headman's Tropique, and has performed with Boston and New York area musicians such as Bob Moses, Bruce Gertz, Dave Clark, Claudio Roditi, Avery Sharpe and Chico Freeman.

