



media release June 09

WEST END COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

"The little big band is alive and well in Australia." Lucky Oceans, ABC Radio National

"Rich & subtle, beautifully voiced" Doug Spencer, ABC Radio National

"Driving Hat [new album by West End Composers Collective] features leading jazz players from the highly active Brisbane scene...the two vocalists alone are worth the price for vocal fans... varies in style and mood from ballad to rhythmic post-bop themes...well arranged and played with flair" John McBeath, The Australian

Sound Travellers, an initiative supporting new Australian music, brings the best of Brisbane's big jazz ensemble sounds to capital cities in July with ten-piece outfit The West End Composers Collective.

What began in 2003 as a monthly gathering of Brisbane's creative improvising musicians, composers and arrangers to workshop original compositions, has formed into one of the most exciting representations of Brisbane's finest jazz musicians – The West End Composers Collective.

This outstanding ten piece ensemble, founded by trumpeter/composer Laura Kahle and pianist/arranger Steve Newcomb, has gone on to notch up dozens of performances and released two acclaimed albums through Brisbane label Pinnacles - **'Downstream'** (2004) and **'Driving Hat'** (2009). **'Driving Hat'** features ten original creations by saxophonist/composer **Rafael Karlen** - embracing each musician's individual strengths to deliver a collaboration of unified sound around his rich harmonies and melodic lines. **'Driving Hat'** solidifies the ensemble's aim to compose and perform outstanding contemporary Australian jazz.

Since their inception, the Collective has performed in Brisbane's most iconic venues and have been guests at the Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festival, 2006 Valley Jazz Festival, 2007 Palmer Street Festival in Townsville, the 2008 Brisbane Jazz Festival and the 2009 Valley Jazz Festival. Rafael Karlen's title track "Driving Hat" was a 2009 finalist in the Bell Awards for **Best Australian Jazz Song of the Year**. Two songs from the album also made the final round in the Jazz category of the 2008 QSong Songwriting Competition.

Don't miss the chance to experience the sound of this incredible ensemble up close!

The track 'Water and Time' (featuring vocalist Megan Washington) is featured on the Sound Traveller's compilation CD.

www.westendcomposers.com.au
www.myspace.com/westendcomposers

JULY TOUR DATES

- Thu July 9 Jazzworx, **BRISBANE** 1 Exhibition Street, Bowen Hills. (07) 3216 1110. \$15/10. 8pm
- Fri July 10 Tank Arts Centre, **CAIRNS** 46 Collins Avenue, Edge Hill. (07) 4031 9555. \$30/25. 7.30pm
- Sat July 11 The Sound Lounge, **SYDNEY (SIMA)** Seymour Centre, Chip'dale. (02) 9351 7940 \$25/20 8.30pm
- Sun July 12 Bennetts Lane, **MELBOURNE** 25 Bennetts Lane (03) 9663 2856. 8.30pm
- Tue July 14 The Promethean, **ADELAIDE** 116 Grote Street (08) 8212 0266 \$15. 7.30pm
- Wed July 15 Folkus, **CANBERRA** 78 Franklin Street, Forrest (02)62951588 \$23/18. 8pm
- Sat July 18 Brisbane Jazz Club, **BRISBANE** 1 Annie Street, K'roo Point (07) 3391 2006 \$15/10 7.30pm
- Sun July 19 Maleny Community Centre, **MALENY QLD** Maple St \$15 at door 5.30pm

SOUND TRAVELLERS is a project funded by the Australia Council Music Board to support musicians in the promotion and national touring of sound art/electronic, improvised jazz and contemporary classical music.

Sound Travellers is now in its 2nd year of bringing the best contemporary Australian music to national audiences.

Applications for Sound Travellers grants to support tours in 2010 tours are now open.

For more details visit www.soundtravellers.com.au



WEST END COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

Steve Newcomb – piano
 Rafael Karlen - tenor sax
 Hannah Macklin - voice
 James Sherlock - guitar
 Gerard McFadden - bass
 Joe Marchisella - drums
 Mark Spencer - alto sax
 Graeme Norris - baritone sax
 Mikael Strand - trombone
 Shannon Marshall – trumpet
+ special guests
 Eugene Ball - Trumpet (in Melb)
 Miroslav Bukovsky-Trumpet (in Syd)



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