

Mark Piszczek
Bamboo Philharmonic

Produced, engineered, and graphic layout by Chris Cortez

Cover design by Mark Piszczek

Recorded on December 11 and 12, 2007 at Blue Bamboo Music Studios, Humble, TX.

Cover art - A.D. 3000 by Philip Gurlik.

All songs composed and arranged by Mark Piszczek except for Suspension of Disbelief and Abandon Negative Action, which was composed by Chris Cortez and Mark Piszczek.

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Musicians -

Mark Piszczek	soprano saxophone
Andrew Lienhard	piano
Joel Fulgham	drums
Glen Ackerman	acoustic and electric bass
Chris Cortez	guitar on tracks 1, 2, and 7
Asle Roe	guitar on tracks 3, 4, 6, and 8

Additional horns on tracks 1 and 5 -

Woody Witt	tenor saxophone
Eddie Lewis	trumpet and flugel horn
Thomas Hulton	trombone
Robert Chadwick	flute on track 1

Notes -

The music on this album is a retrospective of works composed between 1979 and 2007. They represent a number of different styles and genres closely linked to the evolution and development of my personal musical persona. Most artists are influenced by the prevailing zeitgeist and produce works that both embrace and pull away from the artistic trends that define any given era. As the years go by, musicians assimilate those influences they deem to be enduring and discard those that seem overly transient. The stylistic elements that remain constant throughout the years are what define our unique musical personalities.

About five years ago, I decided to retire from the jazz world and pursue a career as a classical (for lack of a better word) composer, conductor and oboist. It was a return to my oldest musical roots and a chance to fulfill some long held personal goals and desires. In 2006, I attended a national composer's symposium in San Antonio, Texas. At the conclusion of the symposium I drove to Houston to visit guitarist, composer and record producer, Christopher Cortez. Chris and I had performed together in several innovative jazz groups during the 1980's and had reestablished contact after years of working on opposite ends of the country.

In the course of my visit, Chris expressed a desire to expand his own record label, Blue Bamboo Music and sign a number of new artists to the roster. As a result of this serendipitous meeting, I ended up playing jazz oboe on one of my compositions for Chris's solo album, *Awakenings*. The experience of recording my tune with Chris and the wonderful musicians affiliated with his label led to the idea of producing a Mark Piszczek solo project for Blue Bamboo Music. We both picked our favorite pieces from my catalogue and collaborated on two new compositions.

We began recording in December 2007 and continued working on and off for a year. Just when I thought I was through with Jazz for good, I got swept back into the thick of it. Working on *Bamboo Philharmonic* was a chance to record some wonderful pieces, played the way I had intended them to sound.

This thirty-year retrospective reflects the musical directions of my various groups, favorite genres and an unexpected reunion with old friends and the always passionate, precarious and beautiful world of Jazz. I hope you enjoy it.

Mark Piszczek 2009

Acknowledgments:

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