

Stockton Helbing

Handprints



WWW.ARMOREDRECORDS.COM
1140 SETTLERS WAY
LEWISVILLE TX 75067
INFO@ARMOREDRECORDS.COM

**Sharp, quick, and clean
Like the Blade does Jazz cut.
To the heart, to the mind, to the soul,
Like the blade does Jazz cut.
To wound, to hurt, to help
Like the blade it must be handled with care
With respect, with thoughtfulness, with love
For like the blade may Jazz cut.**

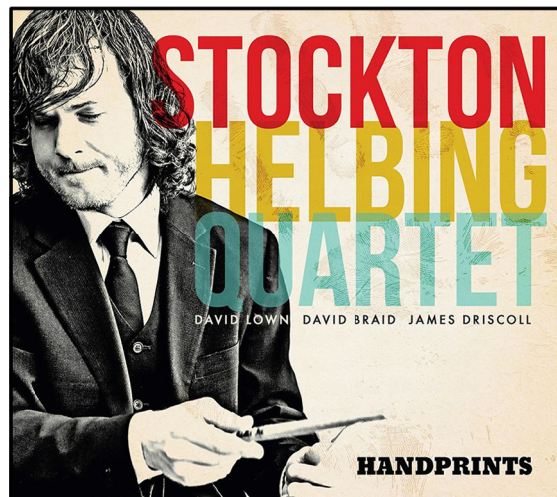
The poem "Like the Blade" appears on the inside jacket cover of *Handprints*, serving as a clear statement of the seriousness that was involved in the making of this music. **Stockton Helbing** has been impressing listeners and critics alike for some years now and with his newest album *Stockton* is clearly making the case that he is a notable voice in modern Jazz as a drummer, composer, and band leader.

"I love Jazz music," says Stockton, "and I want to do my very best in presenting it to audiences young and old, experienced and inexperienced. I have much joy in my life because of Jazz and I am compelled to share that joy with others. Jazz is one of the United States' original art forms and I consider it an honor to be able to perform it."

"With *Handprints*, David Lown, David Braid, James Driscoll, and I set out to demonstrate Jazz at its highest level: thoughtful compositions with large amounts of pure improvisation. Improvisation is the key characteristic of Jazz as well as its greatest challenge. It takes keen familiarity with your fellow musicians, faith in their musical talents, shared musical history, and trust. Trust most of all. With my quartet I am able to express myself artistically without ever having the slightest doubt or hesitation that they will be there with me, immediately and appropriately."

"*Handprints* has a particularly cathartic element to it. I was wrestling with some things musically and personally and I choose to express them through music. I hope that people can gain hope and encouragement from the music in the same way that performing it gave me hope and encouragement."

Available at iTunes & CDbaby.com



Track Listing:

1. Like the Blade (3:56)
2. Mushface (7:05)
3. Eostre (8:21)
4. Handprints (8:53)
5. Lele's Tune - Part 1 (6:03)
6. Lele's Tune - Part 2 (7:06)
7. Like the Blade - Interlude (2:27)
8. Try Again (5:11)
9. It Takes a Toll (13:00)
10. The Silent Watcher (8:47)
11. Like the Blade - Reprise (4:55)

File Under: Jazz
National Release: 7/8/2014
Catalog Number: ARCD8029
Suggested List: \$12.99



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Music Promotion: Lisa Reedy Promotions
775-826-0755
www.jazzpromotion.com
lisa@jazzpromotion.com