

The Seasons of Being • Bio Release

The Seasons of Being is an ambitious 10-piece ensemble created by pianist/composer Andy Milne. Commissioned by Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works, it premiered in 2015 at Millersville University and at Jazz at Lincoln Center and was also featured at New York's Winter Jazz Fest. The recording, released in 2018 on Sunnyside Records and praised by The New York Times as "an ambitious and rewarding disc," was awarded the **2019 Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year:Group**. Backed by Milne's genre-bending quintet Dapp Theory, the group also features guest improvisers **Ralph Alessi, Ben Monder, La Tanya Hall, Michael Attias** and **Christopher Hoffman**. The music explores the body, spirit and mind on music, channeling the diagnostic principles of homeopathic healing to captivate the emotional characterization of each improvising musician.

After suffering severe, chronic back pain several years ago, Milne learned of homeopathy and the profound connection between the body's physical symptoms and one's emotional experiences. From his own positive experiences with the powerful healing modality, he was inspired to explore how he might apply homeopathic diagnosis to music. In 2011, Milne researched and developed a model for identifying human behavioral patterns (pathologies) through understanding how one's subconscious preferences for music or sound are connected to one's pathology. By uncovering the emotional and spiritual forces influencing our responses to sound and music, Milne began composing music in a way he believed could offer specific "healing" qualities for the featured improviser.

With a lush instrumentation that includes horns, strings, vocals and rhythm section, Milne applied his appreciation for the emotional lineage of his musicians to create material that echoes Duke Ellington's ability to empower his musicians' musical heritage. With The Seasons of Being, Milne fuses his poly-stylistic jazz sensibilities with classical, popular and folk traditions to express music of the mind, pointing a way to a new form of music therapy. He is no stranger to outside-the-box collaborative thinking, having created several projects fusing a range of disparate influences and traditions, including work with **Bruce Cockburn, American Composers Orchestra and William Shatner**. With a shared resume that includes **Fred Hersch, Anthony Braxton, Bobby McFerrin, Henry Threadgill and David Bowie**, The Seasons of Being is a distinct ensemble capable of expressing powerful and luxurious musical exuberances.

Contact:

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