

TUM Records Celebrates Wadada Leo Smith's 80th Birthday Year!

Throughout 2021, TUM Records will celebrate the coming 80th birthday of renowned composer and trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith (b. December 18, 1941) with a series of new releases showcasing his monumental artistic vision. The yearlong celebration kicks off on May 21 with a pair of three-CD boxed sets, one an inspiring solo trumpet recording captured in a beautiful historic setting (*Trumpet*), the other a meeting of three true masters, Smith, Bill Laswell and Milford Graves (*Sacred Ceremonies*). Four more major releases are scheduled to follow in the fall.

The first two new releases also bring to ten the total number of Wadada Leo Smith's projects on TUM Records. These releases have ranged from solo and duo settings to large ensembles and an oratorio, always featuring a different aspect of Wadada Leo Smith's uncompromising musical vision.

"It is with great pride that TUM Records presents Wadada Leo Smith's latest releases and thereby commences the celebration of his coming 80th birthday," says TUM Records founder Petri Haussila. "From the very beginning, it has been our goal to foster longer term relationships with artists recording for TUM, among whom Wadada Leo Smith has a special place of honor. With these first two releases, we now have released a total of ten projects with Wadada, each unique in its own way. Among these, *Trumpet* and *Sacred Ceremonies* are the most extensive yet. We salute Wadada for his 80th Anniversary and look forward to our continued collaboration."

Release date: May 21, 2021

Wadada Leo Smith

TRUMPET

TUM BOX-002 (3 Discs)

Trumpet was recorded over one beautiful summer week in July 2016 at St. Mary's Church in the town of Pohja, on the Southern Coast of Finland. It features fourteen new compositions by Wadada Leo Smith, including four extended multi-part works. As a whole, *Trumpet* represents a totally unique journey into the possibilities of the trumpet as a solo instrument and the immersive, almost meditative power of Smith's extended solo performance.



Wadada Leo Smith
with Bill Laswell and Milford Graves

SACRED CEREMONIES

TUM BOX-003 (3 Discs)

Sacred Ceremonies brings together three representatives of distinct and highly influential movements in contemporary creative music, convening in a once-in-a-lifetime meeting of wholly singular minds. Wadada Leo Smith was a member of the first generation of composers and musicians to come out of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) in Chicago in the 1960s whereas Milford Graves was an important proponent of the "new wave" or "free jazz" movement in New York City during the same decade. Bill Laswell in turn was an integral part of the Downtown scene in New York City in the 1970s. From those early days, they have each long since forged a totally unique personal approach to making music and have now together created a collection of music that transcends any easily definable influences.



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by TUM Records



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Tentative release date: September 17, 2021

Wadada Leo Smith's Great Lakes Quartet **THE CHICAGO SYMPHONIES | TUM CD 060-2 (2 Discs)**

The Chicago Symphonies, the second release by *Wadada Leo Smith's Great Lakes Quartet*, features Smith on trumpet, Henry Threadgill or Jonathon Haffner on saxophones, John Lindberg on double bass and Jack DeJohnette on drums. This double-CD includes "Diamond Symphony," "Gold Symphony" and "Pearl Symphony" with Threadgill, Lindberg and DeJohnette as well as "The Presidents Symphony: Their Visions for America; Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg and Barack Obama at Selma!" with Haffner, Lindberg and DeJohnette. The symphonic idea placed in the context of a quartet with trumpet, saxophone, bass and drums was first expressed in the music of Don Cherry, including on his recording *Symphony For Improvisers*, and with *Chicago Symphonies*, Wadada Leo Smith has broadened this idea to bring social and political context into the creative space.

Wadada Leo Smith, Vijay Iyer and Jack DeJohnette **A SONNET FOR BILLIE HOLIDAY | TUM CD 061**

A Sonnet For Billie Holiday brings together for the first time two of Wadada Leo Smith's frequent collaborators, pianist Vijay Iyer and drummer Jack DeJohnette, in this meeting of three creative giants. The recording features compositions by all of its three participants as well as two compositions by Smith for his duo with DeJohnette.

Tentative release date: November 19, 2021

Wadada Leo Smith **STRING QUARTETS NOS 1 – 12 | TUM BOX 004 (7 Discs)**

String Quartets Nos 1 – 12 is the long-awaited recording of Wadada Leo Smith's first 12 string quartets released as a boxed set. They range from his "String Quartet No. 1" from 1965/67 to "String Quartet No. 11" and "String Quartet No.12," each completed in 2018. Eleven of Smith's first 12 string quartets have been recorded by the *RedKoral Quartet*, a string quartet created in 2010 to play his music, although some of its members had been performing Smith's music in other contexts since 2005. *RedKoral Quartet* was also the main ensemble in the performances and recording of "*Rosa Parks: Pure Love. An Oratorio of Seven Songs*," a project released in 2019. The remaining string quartet, "String Quartet No. 11 (*Pacifica*)," was recorded by a viola quartet assembled specifically for this recording. Featured soloists include Wadada Leo Smith, pianist Anthony Davis, harpist Alison Bjorkedal and vocalist Thomas Buckner, among others.

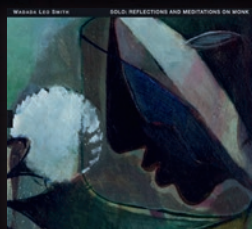
Wadada Leo Smith with Pheeroan akLaff, Han Bennink, Andrew Cyrille and Jack DeJohnette **EMERALD DUETS | TUM BOX 005 (4 Discs)**

Emerald Duets represents another high point in Wadada Leo Smith's already legendary series of duo recordings with some of the greatest drummers in the history of creative music. On each separate CD, Smith is featured with one of four extraordinary drum masters, Pheeroan akLaff, Han Bennink, Andrew Cyrille and Jack DeJohnette. Smith first played with Jack DeJohnette in Chicago in the 1960s and has frequently collaborated with him since the 1990s. After Smith settled in New Haven, Connecticut, in the early 1970s, Pheeroan akLaff entered the circle of young musicians Smith worked with, heralding a musical relationship that continues to the present day. Smith's earliest encounters with Han Bennink also took place in the 1970s, when he spent time in Europe and toured with *Company*. Smith and Andrew Cyrille first performed together in the late 1990s in the *John Lindberg Ensemble* and have more recently expanded their collaborations into various other projects.

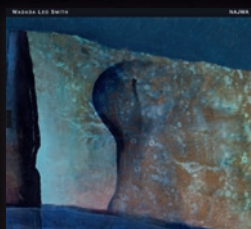
Also available



Wadada Leo Smith
ROSA PARKS: PURE LOVE
TUM CD 057



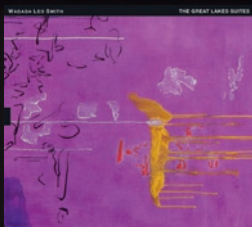
Wadada Leo Smith
SOLO: REFLECTIONS AND MEDITATIONS ON MONK
TUM CD 053



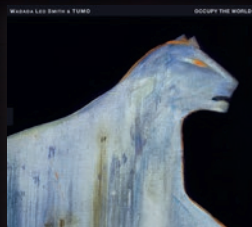
Wadada Leo Smith
NAJWA
TUM CD 049



Wadada Leo Smith & John Lindberg
CELESTIAL WEATHER
TUM CD 046



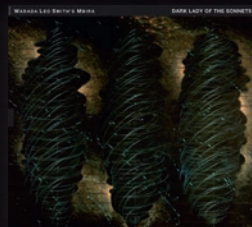
Wadada Leo Smith
THE GREAT LAKES SUITES
TUM CD 041-2



Wadada Leo Smith & TUMO
OCCUPY THE WORLD
TUM CD 037-2



Wadada Leo Smith & Louis Moholo-Moholo
ANCESTORS
TUM CD 029



Wadada Leo Smith's Mbira
DARK LADY OF THE SONNETS
TUM CD 023

