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by TUM Records

Press Release, May 5, 2022

TUM Records Concludes Its Celebration of Wadada Leo Smith's 80th Anniversary with the Release of Two More Exceptional Boxed Sets featuring Smith's String Quartets Nos. 1-12 and His Duo Collaborations with Four Leading Drummers of Our Time.

TUM Records is proud to conclude its celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Wadada Leo Smith with the release of two more exceptional boxed sets that add new aspects of Smith's incomparable creative output to the celebration that includes six releases with a total of 23 discs. **String Quartets Nos. 1-12**, is a seven-CD boxed set by **RedKoral Quartet** and guests that comprises the first 12 of Smith's string quartets and **The Emerald Duets** is a five-CD boxed set that includes Smith's collaborations with four leading drummers of our time, Pheeroan akLaff, Andrew Cyrille, Han Bennink and Jack DeJohnette.

In May 2021, **TUM Records** commenced the celebration of composer, trumpeter, artist and educator Wadada Leo Smith's 80th Anniversary year with the release of two groundbreaking three-CD boxed sets, **Trumpet and Sacred Ceremonies**. On November 19, 2021, these were followed by the release of another pair of exceptional releases: **The Chicago Symphonies**, a magnificent four-disc collection of extended compositions by Smith for his **Great Lakes Quartet** with Henry Threadgill, John Lindberg and Jack DeJohnette, and **A Love Sonnet For Billie Holiday** that brought together for the first time three creative giants, Wadada Leo Smith, Jack DeJohnette and Vijay Iyer.

TUM Records' celebration of composer and trumpet legend Wadada Leo Smith's 80th Anniversary year now concludes with the release of two more boxed sets. The seven-CD boxed set **String Quartets Nos. 1-12** (TUM BOX 005) is a long-awaited recording of Wadada Leo Smith's first 12 string quartets by **RedKoral Quartet** as well as featured soloists including Wadada Leo Smith, pianist Anthony Davis, harpist Alison Bjorkedal and vocalist Thomas Buckner, among others.

Smith began work on his first string quartet in 1965 and since that time has both composed string quartets and featured strings on a number of his other major works, including *Ten Freedom Summers* in 2011, *Occupy The World* in 2012 (TUM CD 037-2) and *Rosa Parks: Pure Love* in 2016/17 (TUM CD 057). **String Quartets Nos. 1-12** represents a magnificent addition not only to Smith's own recorded output but also to the literature for modern string quartet music more broadly. The string quartets were recorded by **RedKoral Quartet**, including violinists Shalini Vijayan and Mona Tian, violist Andrew McIntosh and cellist Ashley Walters. This quartet was brought together by Smith during his tenure at CalArts and was featured on the recording *Ten Freedom Summers* more than a decade ago and again on *Rosa Parks: Pure Love* as well as in numerous live performances of Smith's string quartets and other works over the past decade.

The other upcoming release, **The Emerald Duets**, features four master drummers who have, each in their own unique fashion, contributed to the way modern drumming has developed over the past six decades and how it is now perceived. Pheeroan akLaff, Andrew Cyrille and Han Bennink are each featured on one disc and Jack DeJohnette appears on two discs,

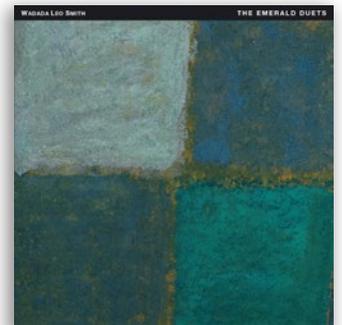


including Smith's five-part composition "Paradise: The Gardens and Fountains," which fills the fifth disc of this boxed set in its entirety. The five-CD boxed set represents a crowning achievement among Wadada Leo Smith's already legendary series of duo recordings with some of the greatest drummers in the history of creative music, which has seen collaborations with such creative giants as Ed Blackwell, Jack DeJohnette, Milford Graves (TUM BOX 003), Louis Moholo-Moholo (TUM CD 029), Adam Rudolph and Günter Sommer, among others.

RedKoral Quartet will be featured in world premiere performances of Wadada Leo Smith's String Quartets Nos. 11, 12 and 13 over two nights on May 23 and 24, 2022 at LAXArt in Los Angeles, California. On June 21, 2022, Smith will receive The Vision Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award and, for this occasion, Smith will present new works for the opening of the festival at Roulette in Brooklyn, New York City.



WADADA LEO SMITH
String Quartets Nos. 1 – 12
TUM BOX 005 (7 CDs)



WADADA LEO SMITH
The Emerald Duets
TUM BOX 006 (5 CDs)

Release Date: June 17, 2022



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Wadada Leo Smith (b.1941), who was part of the first generation of musicians to come out of Chicago's Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), has established himself as one of the leading composers and performers of creative contemporary music. In the late 1960s in Chicago, Smith, saxophonist Anthony Braxton and violinist Leroy Jenkins formed a trio, **Braxton, Jenkins and Smith**, that was later expanded into a quartet, **Creative Construction Company**, when drummer Steve McCall joined them in Paris. Since the early 1970s, Smith has mostly led his own groups, including an important early ensemble **New Delta Akhri** followed by **N'Da Kulture** and, more recently, the **Golden Quartet**, the **Golden Quintet**, the **Silver Orchestra**, **Organic**, **Mbira**, the **Great Lakes Quartet** and **Najwa**. Smith has also had an extensive career in music education. He has been on the faculty of the University of New Haven (1975-76), The Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, New York (1975-78), and Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (1987-92). Until his retirement in 2013, he was the director of the African-American Improvisational Music Program at The Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts (1992-2013). In 2012, Smith released his most extensive recording up until then, *Ten Freedom Summers*, a four-CD collection, which was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2013. In 2013, he released *Occupy The World* (TUM CD 037-2), a two-CD recording of six extended compositions performed by Smith with **TUMO**, a 22-member orchestra. *The Great Lakes*

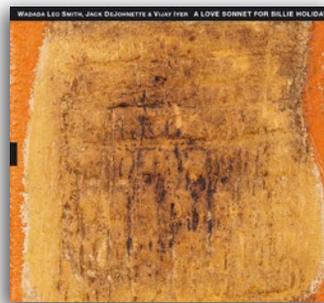
Suites (TUM CD 041-2), a double-CD with Henry Threadgill, John Lindberg and Jack DeJohnette, was broadly hailed as one of the top albums of the year in 2014. In 2017, Smith received awards for Jazz Artist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year (for *America's National Parks*) and Trumpeter of the Year in DownBeat's 65th Annual Critics Poll and was elected Musician of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association. More recently, Smith has released a recording of an extended composition dedicated to the civil rights icon Rosa Parks, which features three vocalists, a string quartet, a trumpet quartet, electronics and a drummer as well as pre-recorded musical excerpts (*Rosa Parks: Pure Love. An Oratorio of Seven Songs*, TUM CD 057); a solo trumpet recording dedicated to Thelonious Monk (*Solo: Reflections and Meditations on Monk*, TUM CD 053); and a recording by a group that included four electric guitarists, electric bassist, drummer and percussionist (*Najwa*, TUM CD 049). In 2021, TUM Records commenced the celebration of Smith's 80th Anniversary year with the release of, *Trumpet*: a three-CD boxed set of unique solo trumpet music; *Sacred Ceremonies*, another three-CD boxed set by three true masters of creative music with Smith joining the ever-versatile electric bassist Bill Laswell and the late, great master drummer Milford Graves; *A Love Sonnet For Billie Holiday* bringing Wadada Leo Smith, Jack DeJohnette and Vijay Iyer together for the first time; and *The Chicago Symphonies*, a four-disc boxed set of extended compositions by **Wadada Leo Smith's Great Lakes Quartet**.



WADADA LEO SMITH'S GREAT LAKES QUARTET
The Chicago Symphonies TUM BOX 004 (4 CDs)

The Chicago Symphonies is a magnificent four-disc collection of extended compositions by **Wadada Leo Smith's Great Lakes Quartet** in a celebration of Chicago and the Midwestern culture. The first three symphonies, "Gold," "Diamond" and "Pearl" are

performed by Smith with three masters of creative music, saxophonist/flutist Henry Threadgill, bassist John Lindberg and drummer Jack DeJohnette. The fourth, "Sapphire Symphony – The Presidents and Their Vision for America," features Smith, Lindberg and DeJohnette with saxophonist Jonathon Haffner.



WADADA LEO SMITH, JACK DEJOHNETTE AND VIJAY IYER
A Love Sonnet For Billie Holiday TUM CD 060

A Love Sonnet For Billie Holiday brings **Wadada Leo Smith, Jack DeJohnette** and **Vijay Iyer** together for the first time in this meeting of three creative giants. Smith first met and played with DeJohnette in the late 1960s and

the two have collaborated with increasing frequency since DeJohnette participated in the first recording by Smith's **Golden Quartet** more than two decades ago. Smith's and Iyer's first collaboration also goes back almost two decades. This recording marks the first time these three unique artists have participated in the same project and the first time DeJohnette and Iyer have played together.



WADADA LEO SMITH WITH BILL LASWELL AND MILFORD GRAVES
Sacred Ceremonies TUM BOX 003 (3 CDs)

Sacred Ceremonies brings together representatives of three distinctive key movements in the contemporary creative music: Milford Graves, an important proponent of the "new music" or "free jazz" movement in New York

City in the early 1960s; Wadada Leo Smith, a part 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 second half of the 1960s; and Bill Laswell, an important member of the so-called Downtown scene in New York City in the 1970s. They each long since forged a totally unique personal approach to making music and created together a collection of music that transcends all of those influences.



WADADA LEO SMITH
Trumpet TUM BOX 002 (3 CDs)

Trumpet represents a culmination of Smith's recorded solo trumpet work that has previously comprised a total of six albums beginning with his very first album as a leader, *Creative Music – 1: Six Solo Improvisations*, in 1971 and including, most recently, his dedication to Thelonious Monk, *Solo: Reflections and Meditations on Monk*, from 2015. **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 of Wadada Leo Smith, including four extended works with either four or five separate parts to them. 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.



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