





### 1. OVER YONDER

Travelling is often about discovering and experiencing the unknown - which has many parallels to playing jazz. Freedom, curiosity, exploration, experimentation, discovery... Together, with Erik Hove in the lead, we prepare for take off - and venture out into the unknown.

### 2. CHAÎNE DES CASCADES

Between California and Washington State, there is a chain of mountains known as the Cascades. With this piece, I wanted to capture the feeling of driving through these mountains- surrounded on either side by rocks and waterfalls, slowly climbing and falling between the jagged peaks. Piano solo : John Roney.

### 3. EASTWICK

The upper east coast of the United States lies victim to the tumultuous storms known as "Nor'easter"s. This piece is reminiscent of my time spent in Boston, New York and New Haven, and the turbulence endured by some of the funkiest places in North America. This track features Jean-Nicolas Trottier on trombone and Kevin Warren on the drums.

### 4. THE RANGE

One autumn, I toured the Canadian prairies twice: one with vocalist Karin Plato, and then again with the Jazzlab. Inspired by the vast stretches of open land and unending sky, I wanted to capture the feeling of being at 'home' on the 'range'. Featured on this track are both Levy Bourbonnais on harmonica and Samuel Blais on soprano sax. Giddy-on-up!

### 5. AGADIR

Over the years, I have travelled extensively throughout the Middle East: the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. By far, the most memorable experience was arriving in Agadir at night by boat - seeing the mountain illuminated in Arabic letters and hearing Chaabi played in the streets. This track features the percussionist Joseph Khoury on various instruments.

### 6. ANATEVKA

This piece gets its name from the fictitious city of 'Anatevka' - the setting of the theatrical musical 'Fiddler on the Roof'. The inhabitant population of Ashkenazy jews is forced to flee their homeland to evade persecution. Having travelled to Israel and to Eastern Europe, I was inspired to write this piece as a cry against suffering and persecution of all people across the globe. Featuring Alain Bedard on bass and Samuel Blais on soprano sax.

### 7. NARA

One winter, I was fortunate to be on tour for a month in Japan with soprano Natalie Choquette. On a 'day off' we decided to visit the city of Nara. To our surprise, it happened to be the one day of the year when the city celebrates the new year by burning the grass on the top of mount Wakakusayama. It was a remarkable juxtaposition of fire, fury, peace and serenity. This track features the rhythm section and Erik Hove on flute.

### 8. LIMERICK

Being of Irish descent  
I tried to think just what that meant...  
A penchant for Ales - and folksongs from Wales... ?  
or displacing the rhythm accent !  
In this homage to the beautiful country of Ireland, we feature Andre Leroux on both flute and tenor sax.

### 9. OPEN ROAD

A big part of touring is being out driving on the open road. I have spent much of my life on 'the road' - travelling throughout Ontario, Quebec, New York, and the Maritime provinces. Though each road has its own unique twists and turns, there is always an odd feeling of 'I've been here before'. Maybe it's all the coniferous trees... or the "Tim"s"! This piece concludes the suite of music, and recapitulates many of the motives and themes from previous movements. Featuring Aron Doyle on trumpet and John Roney on piano.

We tried to put as much music onto this CD as we could, but there are simply so many more places to go and sounds to explore. To have a piece written in honour of your city or homeland, please bring us there on tour! For booking, contact [alain@effendi-records.com](mailto:alain@effendi-records.com) or [alain@jazzlabmusic.com](mailto:alain@jazzlabmusic.com)

## REMERCIEMENTS

I'd like to dedicate this album to all the many musical leaders in my past and present life who have shared their musical worlds with me, and who have taken me on tour to see so much of this planet: Alain Caron, Natalie Choquette, Bernard Primeau, Johnny Scott, Jean-Christophe Beney, Remi-Jean LeBlanc, and of course, the Jazzlab - Thank you !

Thank you to Musicaction and the Canada Council of the Arts for allowing this project to take life. Thank you to all the great players for sharing their artistry in rehearsals and in the studio : Erik, Aron, Jean-Nicolas, Fraser, Kevin, Andre, Sam, Joseph, Levy and Alain - you guys are amazing - and thanks to Robert for the great mix.

Surtout, j'aimerais remercier mes deux beautés - Louise et Mia Bella - pour votre amour et votre soutien au fil des ans. You are my world, et je vous aime de tout mon coeur.  
C'est bien de voyager, mais c'est toujours mieux lorsqu'on on revient chez soi.

And finally, thank you for listening!

John Roney is a Korg Canada artist and clinician.  
Kevin Warren plays Pearl Drums and Dream Cymbals.