

Johannes Wallmann releases new quintet album *Day and Night* on Shifting Paradigm Records

*For his eighth album as leader, the pianist-composer reconnects
with an intergenerational cast of New York heavyweights*

Pianist-composer Johannes Wallmann is releasing a new quintet album, *Day and Night*, on Shifting Paradigm Records on November 2, 2018. Grammy-award winning trumpeter Brian Lynch, saxophonist Dayna Stephens, bassist Matt Pavolka, and drummer Colin Stranahan join Wallmann for an album of original compositions and re-imagined jazz standards.

With this quintet, Wallmann revisits musical connections established over more than two decades in the jazz world. Wallmann has been living in Madison, Wisconsin since 2012, when he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin's Mead Witter School of Music as the inaugural holder of the Peterson Chair in Jazz Studies to spearhead the development of a jazz program. Prior to that, he spent five years teaching at a California State University campus near Oakland. But Wallmann's longest-lasting home, and the location of his formative professional years was New York City, where the German-born, Canadian-raised pianist spent his twenties and early thirties making his living playing jazz in bars, clubs, and the occasional concert hall.

Having first met as students at Berklee College of Music, veteran bassist Matt Pavolka was a long-term musical partner on many of Wallmann's gigs in the 1990s and early aughts. Through his teaching positions, Wallmann got to know Brian Lynch as a colleague at NYU, and Colin Stranahan as a student at the New School. Wallmann's musical collaboration with Dayna Stephens first began in California's Bay Area, the saxophonist's former home, and Stephens has since guest-starred on two previous Wallmann albums, *The Town Musicians* (2015) and *Love Wins* (2018).

Wallmann recalls: "It was exciting to bring these four people whose playing I loved together to make this album. Everyone knew each other from some project or another, but they had not worked in this combination before. Each player in the quintet has such a distinct and individual sound and style that going into the project, I didn't quite know how they would go about negotiating the blend that makes more for a successful band, but I knew that with their tremendous musicianship and experience, they would find a way to make it work. Luckily, we were able to schedule two full days of rehearsals in the middle of everybody's busy summer, and while it was very focused work, it was a huge joy hearing the music come together as the players figured out where to connect and where to leave space for each other's individuality."

The album's source material consists in equal halves of Wallmann's original compositions and of jazz standards. The opening track, "Press Briefing," is an instrumental jazz impression of a White House press conference, and through the melody statement and solos by Stephens and Wallmann, travels the distance from an orderly filing in of the press core, to welcomes, announcements, the day's agenda, and an increasing counterpoint of arguments and counterarguments that leads to shouted questions, and in the end of Lynch's fiery trumpet solo, a primal scream of exasperation. Eventually, the tune and the press briefing reach their inevitable conclusion, and as the players leave the stage one-by-one, eventually someone turns off the light.

Other Wallmann originals include “No Blues for No One,” a Blakey-esque shuffle custom-built for Lynch, the final trumpeter in the long and proud history of the Jazz Messengers, “Toddlin’” a joyful but slightly precarious-feeling second-line groove inspired by the first steps of Wallmann’s young daughter, the Horace Silver-inspired ballad “Nocturne” and a jazz waltz “What Now?” that first appears mid-set as a solo piano interlude and later returns in quartet form with Stephens on baritone saxophone to close the album.

Day and Night is Wallmann’s eighth album as a leader, but the first to focus as extensively on his interpretations of the standard jazz repertoire. On the album’s title track (in the lyrics of the bridge, Porter turns “Night and Day” into “Day and Night”), Wallmann turns the repeated pitch of the song’s verse (“Like the beat, beat, beat of the tom tom...”) into a repetitive piano ostinato at the center of a harmonically altered, Dilla-influenced, odd-meter (15/4) groove.

Thelonious Monk, an important early influence of Wallmann’s is represented with two lesser-known compositions, “Think Of One,” and the ironically bouncy “Bright Mississippi.” Rounding out the program is a Middle-Eastern take on “All Or Nothing At All,” and an all-rubato version of Duke Ellington’s “Solitude.”

Wallmann has previously recorded seven critically acclaimed CDs as a leader, including *The Johannes Wallmann Quartet* (1997), *Alphabeticity* (2003), *Minor Prophets* (2007), *The Coasts* (2010) and *Always Something* (2015). His 2015 quintet album, *The Town Musicians*, was named an Editors’ Pick by *DownBeat* Magazine, which called Wallmann “a remarkable pianist and composer...his evocative compositions are brimming with melodic cogency and rhythmic pull,” and called the album a “stunning collage of jazz styles and genres” and “a harmonious album from a lifetime of diverse sounds and experiences.” *Midwest Record* called *The Town Musicians* “a sizzling session of sitting down jazz” and “music that meets on the corner of complex and accessible,” and the UK’s *Jazz Journal* wrote, “If I were responsible for an album as good as this, I’d be shouting about it.” Wallmann’s 2018 album *Love Wins* was named "Our first *Best Albums of 2018 (So Far)* recipient" by *Something Else!* The UK’s *Jazz Journal* wrote, “Wallmann makes a septet sound like something much larger, as big as his subject, maybe. *Love Wins* is as musically challenging as it is socially, and deserves to be heard on both counts.” And the *Wisconsin Gazette* named *Love Wins*, "One of the most interesting and accomplished jazz albums to come out in recent years. *Love Wins* has taken the uniquely American art form to the next step of its creative journey."

Wallmann has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, including several national tours with the Dennis Mitcheltree Quartet, and performances at Massey Hall (Toronto), Carnegie (Weill Recital) Hall, Merkin Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Brooklyn Conservatory, Renee Weiler Hall, Steinway Hall (New York City), the Hong Kong Coliseum (HK), Pacific Coliseum (Vancouver), SkyReach Center (Edmonton), the Taj Mahal (Atlantic City), and in major jazz clubs throughout North America and Germany (Birdland, The Blue Note, the 55 Bar, Yoshis, The Rex, the Upstairs Jazz Bar & Grill, The Green Mill, Baker’s Keyboard Lounge, The Jazz Estate, The Jazz Gallery, Café Coda, and many more). Wallmann has recorded or performed with trumpeters Ingrid Jensen, Brian Lynch, Ralph Alessi, and Russ Johnson; saxophonists Gary Bartz, Seamus Blake, Phil Dwyer, Dayna Stephens, Pete Yellin,

Dennis Mitcheltree, and Russ Nolan; tubaists Howard Johnson and Marcus Rojas; guitarist Gilad Hekselman; vibraphonist Christian Tamburr; bassists Jeff Andrews, Matt Penman, Sean Conly and Martin Wind; drummers Danny Gottlieb, Tim Horner, Jeff Hirshfield, Terry Clark and Donald Bailey; jazz singers Kevin Mahogany and Jackie Allen; operatic tenor Dr. Francois Clemmons and the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble; Four Other Brothers; the Billings Symphony

The album is available at:

Bandcamp: http://bit.ly/DayAndNight_SPR

iTunes: http://bit.ly/DayAndNight_iTunes

Amazon: http://bit.ly/DayAndNight_Amazon

In-studio videos of four of the tracks on the album are available on YouTube at:

"Press Briefing" <https://youtu.be/AmZMHYbi7P4>

"Night and Day" <https://youtu.be/QgxXso3rYiI>

"No Blues For No One" <https://youtu.be/yk3WYCL430U>

"Nocturne" <https://youtu.be/0RGtBE4dZJQ>

Contact information:

For promo copies of *Day and Night* and for Shifting Paradigm label info, please contact Samantha Baker at shiftingparadigmrecords@gmail.com

For follow-up questions, interviews, bookings and please contact Johannes Wallmann at wallmannjazz@gmail.com

Website: www.johanneswallmann.com