

The debut solo release from veteran performer Devin Hoff,

SOLO BASS

is a collection of improvisations and original compositions for string bass. Laying down ten complete and compelling tracks on an instrument usually relegated to the musical background, Hoff has begun to develop a new body of work for bass—one neither bound by traditionally supportive roles, nor obscured by virtuosic egoism.

Solo Bass draws on the intimate solo work of Munir Bashir, Joao Gilberto, Lightnin' Hopkins, and Joelle Leandre, as well as the profound inspirations of Ornette Coleman, The Carter Family and Black Sabbath.

Extra-musical inspiration comes from historic and present traditions of insurrectionary libertarian socialism, with song titles derived from North American anarchist newspapers ("The Alarm," "The Torch," "The Blast," "The Dawn") and anarchist theories of the evolution of revolutionary praxis (from "Ideal" to "Word" to "Deed"). Radical 20th century art movements also serve as direct influences, from Russian Constructivism to Brazilian Tropicalismo.

"Each of these pieces is like a long lost song buried somewhere in our collective memories. This is not a case of showing off how many weird sounds one can make on their bass, but a way to reach inside and touch us with some universal melodies or short stories. Much of this is closer to folk music than to jazz, often being elegant, touching and thoughtful...As Devin strums his bass, it is like an entire rock band churning out their own hypnotic melody. This disc is a particularly strong solo effort, it sounds like so much more than just solo bass." — Bruce Lee Gallanter, Downtown Music Gallery (New York, NY)

DEVIN HOFF is a well-established artist in the San Francisco Bay Area and a longtime participant in the national and international jazz and creative music scenes. He has performed with many musicians including Nels Cline, Vijay Iyer, Joshua Redman, Steven Bernstein, Carla Bozulich, Bill Frisell, Carla Kihlstedt, Ches Smith, Ron Miles, Ben Goldberg, Scott Amendola, Tony Malaby, John Brion, Mary Halvorson, Jessica Pavone, Bobby Bradford, and Howard Wiley. He was named a "rising star" in the 2008 *Downbeat* critics' poll, and has played on hundreds of records as well as several film and stage soundtracks. He is currently a member of Good For Cows, The Nels Cline Singers, Devin Hoff Platform, Plays Monk, Polly Holliday, and John Dieterich's Lost Planet. He is a former member of Xiu Xiu, 7 Year Rabbit Cycle, and Redressers; and a sometime member of Evangelista.



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