



NEW RELEASE

Tumble • Dragonfly

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Formats: CD and digital download/streaming services

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1. **Surrounded by Dragonflies** (Kerrigan) (6:22)
2. **Juju** (Wayne Shorter) (10:19)
3. **Flow and Eddy** (McKean) (10:30)
4. **Bloodthirsty Wiles*** (Heirendt) (9:02)
5. **Jadey** (Heirendt) (3:08)
6. **3:32** (Heirendt) (6:33)
7. **The Gatekeeper** (Kerrigan) (8:39)

Robert Heirendt • mbira

Sean Kerrigan • electric guitar

Randy McKean • tenor sax;

Bb, A, bass & EEb contralto clarinets
with special guests

Murray Campbell • cor anglaise*

Mei Lin Heirendt • violin*

Tumble, the Nevada City, CA-based chamber jazz trio centered around the unique sound of **Robert Heirendt**'s mbira (aka the African thumb piano), announces the release of its third CD, **Dragonfly**. This latest offering on Cure All builds on the intricate, trance-like groove of their previous releases with injections of driving guitar work and a more open free jazz sensibility.

Dragonfly was recorded over two days in November 2023 at Nevada City's Ancient Wave Studios by renowned engineer **Oz Fritz**. Inspired by Fritz's innovative work with **Bill Laswell**, **Henry Threadgill**, and **Tom Waits**, Tumble was elated to have Fritz at the helm, capturing every twist and turn live in the studio.

Guitarist **Sean Kerrigan**'s micro-suite *Surrounded by Dragonflies* launches the album with a dose of classic rock riffage and prog rock mellifluousness. Kerrigan continues the Tumble tradition of innovative arrangements of **Wayne Shorter** classics with the bumping three-feel funk of **Shorter**'s *Juju*. With his composition *Flow and Eddy*, horn man **Randy McKean** attempts to imitate the looping patterns of the traditional Zimbabwean mbira tunes that Heirendt often brings to the group. The piece steers the trio through a free-improvisational stream of events with concise rhythmic gathering points along the way.

The centerpiece of the album is Heirendt's soaring *Bloodthirsty Wiles*, inspired by **Zara Houshmand**'s translation of poems by the Sufi mystic Rumi, and featuring special guests, Robert's daughter **Mei Lin Heirendt** (currently making waves with her band **Broken Compass Bluegrass**) on violin, in duet with **Murray Campbell**, McKean's colleague in the band **Beaucoup Chapeaux**, on the oboe-like cor anglais. An understated elegy for the Heirendt's family cat *Jadey* prefaces the bass clarinet intro to *3:32*, a kinetic foot-stomper that materialized during one of Heirendt's bouts of insomnia and which was named after its time of conception. **Kerrigan**'s *The Gatekeeper* ends the collection with a beginning of sorts, a free exploration of melodic links in a chain that heralds a new direction for the trio.

Drawing inspiration from the groups **Oregon**, **Codona**, the **Art Ensemble of Chicago**, and composer/performers **Wayne Shorter** and **Thomas Mafumo**, Tumble has brought its delicate interplay of form and freedom to venues throughout Northern California and beyond.

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