

Press Release

Julien Wilson - This is Always - Lionsharerecords LSR20131

Julien Wilson - Tenor Sax / Clarinet (Melbourne)
Barney McAll - Grand Piano (New York)
Jonathan Zwartz - Acoustic Bass (Sydney)
Allan Browne - Drums & Cymbals (Melbourne)

On Australia Day 2013, Wilson went in to the studio with three of his all time favourite musicians. Known primarily as a contemporary player, and leader of ensembles with often unusual instrumentation, his intention was to record a jazz ballads album *in the spirit of* the Prestige off-the-cuff "meeting session" recordings of the 50's and 60's. The band set up close together in one room, with no rehearsals and no headphones, to achieve as intimate and honest a connection as possible.

The rhythm section brought together the dream-team of New York based pianist Barney McAll, Sydney's superbly deep and swinging Jonathan Zwartz on bass, and Melbourne's favourite drummer, Allan Browne in a first time meeting. Together, they create a sound like no other band in the country. Deep yet light, Old School *and* hip, informed yet inspired.

Recorded in Melbourne and mixed in New York, *This is Always* sparkles with the essence of the classic jazz quartets and conjures up the smoke-filled ambience of a '50's Parisian Jazz Bar. The album is the inaugural release on Wilson's new label, **Lionsharerecords** and was officially launched in concert at the 2013 Wangaratta Jazz Festival.

In 2014, the quartet toured Australia's East Coast to promote the album, recording again live and in the studio. *This is Always* was a finalist for an AIR Award for Best Independent Jazz Album and was Birdland Records' #1 top selling Australian Album. Julien became the first ever recipient of three concurrent Australian Jazz Bell Awards:

- 2014 Best Australian Jazz Ensemble (*Julien Wilson Quartet*)
- 2014 Best Australian Traditional Jazz Album (*This is Always*)
- 2014 Best Australian Jazz Song of the Year (Trout River - from *This is Always*)

"Melbourne saxophonist Julien Wilson won three prizes at the Bell Awards last month, so expectations were high for his quartet — and they delivered mightily in one of the best performances of the festival." **2014 MIJF Review J McBeath - The Australian**

"the spiritual heir to Australia's ultimate tenor players. Make no mistake: this band was just as exceptional and distinctive as (Joshua) Redman's, and the tenor playing more so."

Live Review 2014 J Shand - Sydney Morning Herald

"The band Wilson has chosen could scarcely be surpassed anywhere: Julien is both subtle and magnificent. The tenor saxophone is like smoke, and it is like carved oak in his hands."

CD Review by J Clare -AustralianJazz

"a level of maturity, and a storytelling quality that place him proudly in the lineage of such great tenor balladeers as Lester Young, Dexter Gordon, John Coltrane, Stan Getz and Joe Lovano."

CD Review by A Jackson - Rhythms

"One of the great Australian jazz albums. His phrasing is so relaxed that the tenor seems to massage you as you listen." **CD Review by J Shand - SMH**

For enquiries and distribution please contact info@julienwilson.com
Albums available at boutique record stores and online at www.lionsharerecords.com