

QUINSIN NACHOFF With MARK HELIAS/JIM BLACK et al

Magic Numbers [H-SACD]

Label: Songlines 1556 **Country:** Canada

Format: CD **Category:** AVAILABLE **Price:** \$17.00

[Back](#) [Add / View](#) [Shopping Cart](#)

Description:

Featuring Quinsin Nachoff on tenor & soprano saxes & compositions, Mark Helias on contrabass and Jim Black on drums plus a string quartet with Nathalie Bonin & Noemi Racine Gaudreault on violins, Jean Rene on viola and Julie Trudeau on cello. This is quite an impressive debut disc from Vancouver-based saxist Quinsin Nachoff and his NY rhythm team and a fine string quartet. Considering that I was completely unfamiliar with Mr. Nachof before this, I am even more amazed by ambitious ideas and writing. On each of the eight pieces, Quinsin sets up different tactics, grooves or structures for the sax-led trio and string quartet to navigate through. The string quartet is an integral part of the proceedings, often playing their parts as the trio tightly connects with them. Quinsin's bittersweet tone works well with string quartet that often starts off or continues the phrases that the sax exhales. What is most interesting about this is that it is very hard to define, being in between established categories of jazz and modern classical. There are elements of short somewhat funky grooves interspersed with some further out string sections. It is difficult to combine these extremes without sounding forced, but the entire group does a great job of making it flow together. We received this promo more than a month before we got in copies to sell, so I played it a few times and always met with good response from customers in the store who knew that this was something unique and successful. Another unexpected gem from the consistently superb Songlines folks. - BLG

Bruce Gallenter, Downtown Music Gallery NYC