

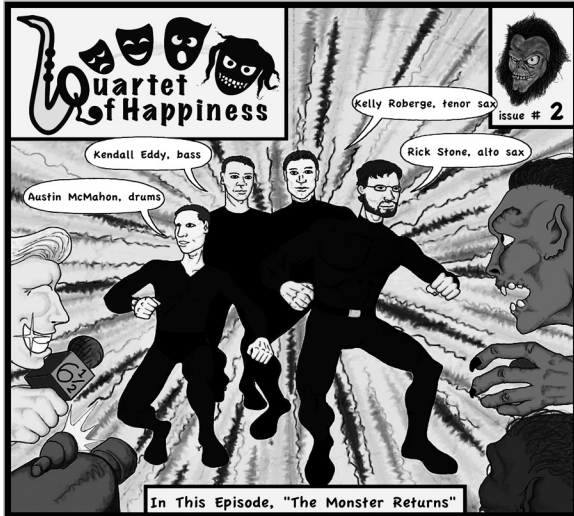
Street Date: May 18, 2010



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Quartet of Happiness

The Monster Returns



Creative Nation Music CNM 017
UPC: 7 00261 29147 5

Tracks

01. Lullaby Of It's Mutiny (4:55)
02. Who's Got Rhythm? (3:01)
03. Can You Hear Me Now? (5:32)
04. Music History (8:56)
05. The ii - V7 - I Game (4:39)
06. So You Think You Can Jazz (9:31)
07. New Jersey (2:46)
08. The Emotionless Man (9:09)
09. Luck Of The Irish (3:57)
10. The Hybrid Is Not Limited In its Ability To Communicate (5:45)
11. The Monster Returns (5:06)

Tracks 1, 2, 5, 9 and 11 written by Rick Stone
(StickRock Music, ASCAP)

Tracks 3, 6 and 7 written by Austin McMahon
(Austin McMahon Music, ASCAP)

Tracks 4, 8 and 10 written by Kelly Roberge
(MusicBerge, ASCAP)

Recorded February 19-20, 2008 at Wellspring
Studios in Acton, MA

Description

The Monster Returns is the latest recording from the Boston-based theatrical jazz group, Quartet of Happiness. Known for its unusual combination of performance art, irreverent humor, story telling and educational elements, this innovative ensemble engages audiences of all ages with its ability to accentuate the fun aspects of jazz without sacrificing any of its innate creativity. *The Monster Returns* features musical game pieces, satirical looks at music history and TV talent shows, a sing-along about New Jersey and various other comic vignettes, all infused with modern jazz and a high level of musicality.

"Although their approach is definitely all their own," explains guitarist and Creative Nation Music founder Eric Hofbauer, "Quartet of Happiness fits in perfectly with our guiding principles of documenting and supporting local jazz musicians with distinctive musical personalities. I've worked with these musicians in various settings over the past decade, including my own groups, and despite their outward humor and lightheartedness, they're very serious about what they do, which is introduce creative improvised music to audiences who wouldn't normally interact with jazz. They do this by bringing together a history of collaboration with such jazz luminaries as Bob Brookmeyer, George Garzone, Steve Lacy and the Either/Orchestra with a diverse range of non-jazz influences including Blue Man Group, GWAR, Igor Stravinsky and Frank Zappa."

Musicians

Rick Stone, alto saxophone
Kelly Roberge, tenor saxophone
Kendall Eddy, bass
Austin McMahon, drums

Distribution sources

Physical distribution by City Hall Records
Digital distribution by IODA
Direct sales from cnmpro.com



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Quartet of Happiness

The Monster Returns

About Quartet of Happiness

Founded in 2003, Quartet of Happiness has toured around Boston and beyond with its current line-up of Rick Stone (alto saxophone), Kelly Roberge (tenor saxophone), Kendall Eddy (bass) and Austin McMahon (drums) since late 2005. United by a common goal of taking jazz down from the ivory tower and returning it to the people, these thirty-something conservatory educated musicians perform an eclectic range of original music in venues ranging from elementary schools to jazz clubs.

"Combining off-kilter jazz improvisation with comedic performance art," wrote *JazzTimes'* Forrest Dylan Bryant in his review of the group's self-titled 2007 debut, "this Boston-based ensemble offers up a rollicking pastiche of musical skits and game-like exercises...the instrumental tracks have a delightfully skewed aesthetic, and the Quartet's impression of a radio tuning in stations at random is just plain funny." The *Boston Phoenix's* Jon Garelick adds, "The music is a technically daunting blend of spot-on bebop, rock and funk rhythms, and fiendish avant-skronk arrangements that require airtight precision. If these guys just talked to talk, it wouldn't matter—but they *execute!*"

Learn more at <http://quartetofhappiness.com>



Photo by Douglas Despres

Additional Talking Points

- + The name of the record, *The Monster Returns*, refers to the recurring character of The Monster from the band's live shows. Tenor saxophonist Kelly Roberge often "involuntarily" transforms into The Monster, a la Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde, when taking particularly passionate or energetic solo (as pictured on the back cover). The title track, which is itself a sequel to the tune "Let The Monster In" from the band's first record, documents Roberge's metamorphosis.
- + As with its live performances, the band sees its recordings as an opportunity to educate and entertain its listeners in ways other jazz bands cannot. Elements such as pop culture references, musical homages and sections of both scripted and spontaneous dialogue command the listener's full attention, defying the long-standing cliché of jazz as background music. The band considers this carefully crafted approach an opportunity to dynamically connect with audiences beyond the venue, especially those who are otherwise intimidated or simply unfamiliar with more traditional jazz ensembles.
- + Quartet of Happiness employs a flexible musical approach that can be adapted to audiences as young as five. Its main goal when performing for children is to provide an inspiring first impression of live jazz music with engaging interactive game pieces and theatrics. A standard set in an educational setting includes songs that incorporate storytelling, eurhythmics, ear training and instrument introductions. The band uses its jazz club performances to workshop new material, while also integrating a higher level of improvisation and a wider variety of jazz styles.
- + On May 18th, the street date for *The Monster Returns*, the band will kick-off their new strategic fundraising initiative, Jazz Smiles, with a performance at the upscale Scullers Jazz Club in Boston. Over the next three years, through performances, personal donations and corporate/private support, Quartet of Happiness hopes to raise enough money to present concerts and workshops in 50 cash-strapped public schools.



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