



**Saxophonist/Composer NICHOLAS BRUST
Proudly Announces His Sophomore Recording: *Daybreak***

Available February 17, 2023 on Outside In Music - www.outsideinmusic.com

Featuring: Nicholas Brust (saxophone, compositions), **Lage Lund** (guitar), **Julia Chen** (piano),
Rick Rosato (bass), **Gary Kerkezou** (drums)

“A very impressive piece of work from a saxophonist whose grasp of tone colour makes him immediately distinctive and listenable...He has a fine group behind him and he works with them rather than on top of them.”

– **Brian Morton, Jazz Journal UK**

“Mr Brust’s approach... is to write melodically and – as it turns out – this reveals a musicianship that is genuine because it is based on songfulness... Also, as an alto saxophonist, Mr Brust’s originality is compelling and it seems to set him apart from others playing the instrument – indeed most other horn players... his trademark is a round sound, lithe and elegant as well as warm and swinging, plus the tantalizing asymmetry of his lines, which set off in wrong-footing directions and unexpected turnarounds, but always seem to land exactly right melodically and harmonically, with their own fascinating rhythm.”

– **Raul Da Gama, Jazz Da Gama**

"Nick Brust’s playing and writing is evidence that the future of the alto saxophone is in good hands. Rarely do you find a young player who combines exquisite, head-spinningly dextrous playing with such thoughtful ideas and compositions. Check him out!" – **Will Vinson (noted saxophonist/composer/bandleader)**

Heralded as one of the premiere saxophonists of his generation, Boston-based **Nicholas Brust** has established his voice, both as an instrumentalist and a composer, in the world of modern instrumental music. He has found his niche as a bandleader and composer, taking advantage of the numerous textures and combinations available in small-group improvised music, evident on his new recording, ***Daybreak***, featuring **Brust with guitarist Lage Lund, pianist Julia Chen, bassist Rick Rosato and drummer Gary Kerkezou**. The album will be released on **Outside In Music on February 17, 2023**.

Daybreak is the follow up recording to Brust’s debut full-length album, *Frozen in Time*, released on Fresh Sound in 2020. The album has received international critical acclaim from *All About Jazz*, *Jazz Journal UK*, *Modern Jazz Today*, *Rootstime Music*, and the *Jazz Quad*, among many others. Marc Phillips of *Part-Time Audophile* exclaimed, “It’s as if one of your favorite movie stars from long ago suddenly started telling you about all the secrets of the universe.”

Nicholas Brust has a crystalline sound, imbued with a life force, vitality and exuberance that is addictive. As Dan Bilawsky stated in *All About Jazz*, "this leader's skills and solid intuition move beyond his writing and performing, as his personnel choices also reflect excellent taste." Indeed, his band is in lockstep with him throughout every tune on *Daybreak*, making for an elevated listening experience. Brust and his music sound at once completely familiar and brand new; in the tradition, while breaking new ground. He is influenced by the likes of Pat Metheny, Brian Blade, George Coleman, Robert Glasper, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Kenny Garrett, and Roy Hargrove, among others, and he seems to have taken the best qualities of these stalwarts and forged them into his own elements. “Not only does Brust impress with his versatile playing, but he reveals a flair for composition that sufficiently nods to tradition without the usual predictable patterns, finding a nice balance with

more modern jazz sensibilities. He delivers a colorful well-conceived debut that already has us anticipating his next recording,” said Jim Hines in *Making A Scene*.

About the music on *Daybreak* with Nicholas Brust:

“**Absence of You,**” is about the necessary development of artistic independence and its accompanying isolation. “It is both crucial and challenging for artists to balance the isolation of practicing with time spent with others.”

“**Diamonds and Clubs,**” is a continuation of a suite that Brust started with “Hearts and Spades,” released on, *Frozen in Time*. “Both pieces begin with a bowed bass introduction, and this one reminds me of a glimmering diamond.”

“**Mind’s Eye**”: This composition, “plays with similar melodies in two different keys, as though one is being remembered slightly differently than the original.”

“**For Wisdom**” is a tribute to Roy Hargrove and the inspiration his music and presence on the NYC jazz scene had on Brust as a musician.

“**To Carry the Torch**” reflects on the, “complex circumstances and responsibilities each generation inherits from the previous one, and the care we take when we ourselves pass them along.”

“**Suspense in Blue**” is Brust honoring the importance of the blues. “It has connected just about every genre of music (and subgenres of jazz) for generations and continues to be relevant today.”

“**Daybreak,**” the title track, was the guiding force for the album’s concept. The melody, encompassing two octaves, was inspired by the possibilities of a new day. “You can hear the sun coming out with a burst of energy, followed by the day’s first shadows. It’s ultimately about making the most of the opportunities that each day brings us. On a more personal note, It is about things coming anew, from the birth of my son to the reemergence of live music in a post-Covid world.”

“**In This Moment**”: “Spending time with loved ones has only become more precious as I’ve gotten older, and the birth of my son this past year sharpened that feeling. This song is meant to encapsulate the feeling of the fleeting, priceless time spent with the ones you love.”

“**The Tempest**”: Brust’s attempt to capture the structure of a storm in song - the foreboding, the destruction, and the peace of the aftermath.

“**Ballad of a Sea Porpoise**”: “The piano and guitar combination, without saxophone, reminds me of being underwater. Writing this song, I wanted the listener to imagine living their whole life submerged.”

“**A Midsummer Night**” is a contrafact written over the changes of “You Stepped Out of a Dream” by Nacio Herb Brown and is also a reference to Shakespeare. “The rhythms of the melody are meant to reference Shakespeare’s twisting, turning plots.”

More about Nicholas Brust: Brust has performed with numerous highly acclaimed musicians, including Gilad Hekselman, The Peter Silver Big Band (sharing the stage with Roy Hargrove, Jimmy Owens, Steve Wilson and others), guitarist Ben Eunson, Kristina Koller (appearing in her Quintet at the 2020 NYC Winter Jazz Fest), and many others. The saxophonist/composer is currently on faculty at New England Conservatory, in addition to maintaining his own private studio. Nicholas released an EP of original music entitled *Brooklyn Folk Songs* in January 2015, which, “showcases a set of original compositions that infuse sturdy melodies with a rich, contemporary harmonic palette...like the borough for which it’s named - encompasses a variety of moods along with its own unique accent” (David Kastin). Since then Brust has continued to showcase his compositional and improvisational talents both on his previous recording *Frozen In Time* (Fresh Sound, 2020), and in a series of videos that can be found on his YouTube channel. Brust has a Master of Music in jazz performance from New England Conservatory as well as a Bachelor of Music in jazz studies and music education from the Eastman School of Music.

Please Visit:

www.NicholasBrustMusic.com & www.OutsideInMusic.com

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