

Matt White Super Villain Jazz Band

Worlds Wide

EARUP

★★★★

Worlds Wide is the follow-up to trumpeter Matt White's 2013 debut, which he recorded with his lissome nonet, The Super Villain Band. But whereas that first album hinged on covers by the likes of Tom Waits and Britney Spears, *Worlds Wide* finds its inspiration in meaningful locations—both real and imaginary—from the trumpeter's personal history.

That concept makes for a fascinating sonic journey, and the vessel is piloted by an accomplished crew, with Evan Cobb on tenor saxophone, Don Aliquo on alto saxophone, Roy Agee on trombone, Joe Davidian on piano, Jonathan Wires on upright bass, Jim White on drums and Steve Bailey and Victor Wooten on electric basses. With technical precision and a knack for sweeping, cinematic statements, the nonet tackles tunes designed to conjure fantastic locales, from Icelandic waterfalls ("Godafass/Lunar Landscape") to South Carolina's Gullah region (the three-part *St. Helena Island Suite*) to the setting of science-fiction writer Jeff VanderMeer's *Southern Reach Trilogy* ("Area X"). The album's final number, "AMUSEing," paints a sonic portrait of White's favorite destination of all: parenthood.

—Brian Zimmerman

Worlds Wide: Departure; Godafass/Lunar Landscape; The Black Valley; The Copenhagen Garment Bag Incident; Adam In The Garden; Ride On Jesus; Wade In The Water; Spectra; Area X; AMUSEing. (67:00)

Personnel: Matt White, trumpet; Evan Cobb, tenor saxophone; Don Aliquo, alto saxophone; Roy Agee, trombone; Joe Davidian, piano; Jonathan Wires, bass; Jim White, drums; Steve Bailey, Victor Wooten, electric bass.

Ordering info: earuprecords.com



San Francisco String Trio

May I Introduce To You

RIDGEWAY RECORDS

★★★★

It was 50 years ago that The Beatles released *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, one of the best pop albums ever recorded. Its music is part of the DNA of several generations of music lovers.

Reinventing the songs on the album is a daunting task, but this San Francisco trio pulls it off with a combination of masterful musicianship and innovative arrangements that combine elements of jazz, pop, country, rock, swing and world music. Slow plucked notes from Jeff Denson's double bass and the violin of Mads Tolling open "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds," which features some nice slide guitar from Mimi Fox. And the trio's take on "Good Morning, Good Morning," one of the most raucous tracks on *Sgt. Pepper*, gets a gentle swing treatment, with bowed bass and violin extrapolating on the chord structure. Denson plays a familiar rock turnaround under a lengthy excursion from Tolling that suggests Beethoven playing country music.

—j. poet

May I Introduce To You: When I'm Sixty-Four; Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds; Fixing A Hole; Within You Without You; With A Little Help From My Friends; Being For The Benefit Of Mr. Kite; Lovely Rita; Getting Better; Good Morning Good Morning; She's Leaving Home; A Day In The Life; Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. (64:01)

Personnel: Mads Tolling, violin; Mimi Fox, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, 12-string guitar, double bass, vocals.

Ordering info: ridgewayrecords.com



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