



CHRISTIAN SCOTT
Yesterday You Said Tomorrow
Released on Concord Jazz
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Live
Ronnie Scott's, London
1st & 2nd February 2010



Reaching out with sheer emotion, urgency and power, **Christian Scott** is perhaps the most important innovator of his generation. To say he is talented with something new to add is an understatement of massive proportions. To speak of him as a passionate, thought-provoking, unrestrained yet eloquent political commentator is putting it mildly. To fail to acknowledge the much-needed panache, charisma and style he brings to the genre would be churlish. At 26, New Orleans born trumpeter Christian Scott is a breath of fresh air.

Yesterday You Said Tomorrow is Scott's new recording co-produced with Chris Dunn, and veteran jazz engineer **Rudy Van Gelder**, in whose studio it was recorded. When Scott had heard that Van Gelder was looking for him, he recalls googling his name and reading "*regarded as one of the most important recording engineers in music history*", and immediately felt the weight of what could arguably be perceived as one of the greatest endorsements possible. It had been many years since Van Gelder had worked with a current artist, yet on hearing Scott's previous recordings, he had felt his conviction and wanted to be part of his movement. "He explained to me" says Scott, "that what he saw in me and my band was a profound opportunity to bring back what was missing in jazz". Scott recalls a particularly "heavy part of the session" – on finishing the title track, *KKPD*, a track full of dark harmonies and tense, competing polyrhythms, Van Gelder appeared in the studio, smiled broadly and said "I don't know if you guys realise it, but this is *'new!'*"

Yesterday You Said Tomorrow reflects the legacy of some of Scott's musical heroes of the '60s, and at the same time wields the music as a tool to address some of the very important issues of contemporary culture.

"I wanted to create a musical backdrop that referenced everything I liked about music from the '60s – Miles Davis' second quintet, Coltrane's quartet, Mingus' band – coupled with music made by people like Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. Music from that era just had more depth. The political and social climate at the time was much heavier, and there were a few musicians who weren't afraid to reference that climate in their work". He continues, "Of paramount importance was that it was recorded as if in the 60's. **Rudy Van Gelder** marries the era's together helping us to fully express ourselves against the backdrop which he helped create. The driving force behind this document was to illuminate that fact that the same dilemmas that dominated the social and musical landscape in the 60's have not been eradicated only refined."



Yesterday You Said Tomorrow takes aim at certain injustices persistent in society. Scott composed all the music bar two tracks – one, *Erasure*, written by Thom Yorke, and another by guitarist **Matthew Stevens**. Also accompanying Scott is pianist **Milton Fletcher Jr.**, bassist **Kristopher Keith Funn** and drummer **Jamire Williams**. Together they address the issues head on, regardless of how uncomfortable the subject matter may be. *K.K.P.D.*, for example, stands for “Ku Klux Police Department,” a reference to what Scott calls the “phenomenally dark and evil” attitude by the local police toward African American citizens of New Orleans. *Angola, LA & The 13th Amendment*, fuelled by Scott’s alternately melancholy and soaring trumpet lines and Williams’ crashing drums, equates certain aspects of the prison system with slavery. The introspective *The Last Broken Heart* was inspired by the debate over gay marriage, while *The American’t* - pitting a melodic trumpet line against a tense rhythmic undercurrent - is a reflection on the negativity that persists in the aftermath of the history-making presidential election of 2008.

Scott draws his inspiration from many sources; hip-hop rhythms, brass band, deep-rooted blues, neo-soul, alternative rock, and he has won many accolades. In turn, he has been sought out by many heavyweights – he has recently collaborated with Prince, Mos Def, McCoy Tyner, Marcus Miller, Soulive, Cypress Hill’s DJ Muggs, and his most recent collaboration with UK rapper, Scroobious Pip.

Yesterday You Said Tomorrow is an album of heart-reaching clarity for muddled times, “yet”, says Ashley Kahn in the album’s liner notes “its driving force is its originality, to find new textures to play with light and shadow, to give life to fresh, unfamiliar structures”

Christian Scott performs at Ronnie Scott’s in London on February 1st and 2nd 209.
Ronnie Scotts, 47 Frith Street, Soho, W1
Reservations 020 7439 07471 or www.ronniescotts.co.uk

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