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Quartet Live!

featuring

**Gary Burton Pat Metheny Steve Swallow
Antonio Sanchez**

Released on Concord Jazz

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Quartet Live!, is a revisited edition of the classic Gary Burton Quartet. The album features three original members; jazz legends vibraphonist **Gary Burton**, guitarist **Pat Metheny** and bassist **Steve Swallow** alongside one new member, and perhaps one of the most prominent drummers of his generation, **Antonio Sanchez**.

The story begins in 1967 when Steve Swallow joined with Gary Burton to form the original Gary Burton Quartet. In the early 1970s, then 19-year old guitarist Pat Metheny joined the band and one of the most celebrated careers in music began. This would be the start of a 35-year musical friendship between the vibist and guitarist that continues today. A decade ago Metheny discovered drummer Antonio Sanchez, inviting him to join The Pat Metheny Group, and the two have been playing together ever since. These long-lasting, overlapping musical partnerships are the foundation of this landmark recording, great artists who really know each other's playing in depth.

Metheny came up with the idea to revisit the Gary Burton Quartet, the band that had been his entry into the jazz world: "For me, as a teenager in Missouri just starting to appreciate jazz, Gary's group was the most innovative band around." They scheduled a gig at the Montreal Jazz Festival in 2005. The musicians' rapport and the freshness of playing at Montreal was so energizing that, over the following two years, the musicians took the act on the road in Japan and the US. **Quartet Live!** was recorded while on tour at Yoshi's Jazz Club in California. Burton says, "Without a doubt, the level of the group was at an all-time high that weekend. At Yoshi's, everything just clicked."

The Gary Burton Quartet was always known for the up and coming musicians who contributed original songs to the repertoire. Chick Corea wrote many songs for the group, as did Carla Bley, who both have songs included here. Other composers include Keith Jarrett, and of course, Burton, Swallow and Metheny. Metheny is amply represented here by tunes composed during his Burton Quartet years. Swallow has written many pieces for the Burton Quartet including Falling Grace, his first composition for Burton and considered a standard by many jazz musicians.

The special challenge for a jazz reunion is to achieve something more than simply playing the old material, and **Quartet Live!** fully realizes this, taking the music into new territory. "We have all continued to evolve as players, so we play the songs in fresh ways now. We've all become better improvisers, too. But, more importantly, though we have each gone on to new ventures, when we got back together again the rapport that always came so easily is still front and center. This has been the most fun I've had in a very long time," stated Burton.

What we have here is four legendary musicians, improvisers and composers all, each at the top of his game, bringing modern jazz history to life on **Quartet Live!**

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