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BILL FRISELL
HISTORY, MYSTERY
RELEASE DATE: MAY 12, 2008

Grammy Award–winning guitarist, composer, and bandleader **Bill Frisell**'s new album - ***History, Mystery*** - will be released by Nonesuch on **May 12**. After back-to-back trio albums, this two-disc set finds Frisell performing and recording again with a large band.

History, Mystery features an octet of strings, horns, and rhythm section with some of Frisell's closest collaborators - Jenny Scheinman (violin), Eyvind Kang, (viola), Hank Roberts (cello), Ron Miles (cornet), Greg Tardy (clarinet and tenor saxophone), Tony Scherr (bass), and Kenny Wollesen (drums). *History, Mystery* debuts many recent Frisell compositions as well as a few of his arrangements of favourite pieces by other songwriters, ranging in style from soul pioneer Sam Cooke, to jazzmen Thelonious Monk and Lee Konitz. Producer Lee Townsend and engineer Shawn Pierce recorded the group in various combinations and contexts, live and in the studio.

The original compositions on the album were born from and inspired by collaborations with visual artist and fellow Seattle resident Jim Woodring. One such collaboration, 'Mysterio Simpatico', was premiered at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn in June 2002. The two later presented 'Probability Cloud', which appears in parts on the first disc, at Zankel Hall in New York in January 2006. In a review of the performance, *The New York Times* wrote, "Both Mr. Frisell and Mr. Woodring make the familiar unfamiliar. In Mr. Frisell's compositions, cozy, archetypal Americana - country tunes, blues, waltzes - is slowed down, melted at the edges, eerily reharmonized or disassembled and contemplated part by part."

Townsend says, "*History, Mystery* explores a fuller palette of orchestral colors and timbres than for any project Bill has done before. Thematic elements recur throughout the album, furthering its symphonic sensibility."

In a career that spans more than 30 years and 100-plus recordings, **Bill Frisell** has been hailed by the *Washington Post* as "not only one of the most inventive jazz guitarists of his generation, but also one of the most versatile and prolific." The *Philadelphia Inquirer* writes, "like Miles Davis and few others, his signature is built from pure sound and inflection; an anti-technique that is instantly identifiable." Frisell's recordings over the last decades span a wide range of musical influences, from Buster Keaton film scores (*The High Sign/One Week*, *Go West*), to Gary Larson cartoon soundtracks *(Quartet),* to original compositions for extended ensemble with horns *(This Land, Blues Dream)* and collaborations with the acclaimed rhythm section of bassist Viktor Krauss and drummer Jim Keltner *(Gone, Just Like a Train* and*, Good Dog, Happy Man).* Other releases include an album with Nashville musicians *(Nashville),* the solo album *Ghost Town,* an album of his arrangements of songs by Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach *(The Sweetest Punch),* a trio album with jazz legends Dave Holland and Elvin Jones, and a collection of American traditional songs and original compositions inspired by them entitled *The Willies. Unspeakable,* produced by Hal Willner, won a Grammy in 2005. *Down Beat* has cited his catalogue, including more than 20 recordings for Nonesuch, as "the best recorded output of the decade."

<u>Catalogue information:</u>
Compact disc: 7559 799 437
Download: 7559 799 435

Images of **Bill Frisell** can be found at: **www.image.net**
Visit the official **Bill Frisell** website: **www.billfrisell.com**
Visit the official **Nonesuch** website: **www.nonesuch-uk.com**

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