

The Monterey Quartet
Dave Holland, Chris Potter, Jason Moran & Eric Harland
'Live at the 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival'

Released on Concord Jazz/Monterey Jazz Festival Records
9th November 2009

And live as the
OVERTONE QUARTET
The BBC Radio3 London Jazz Festival
Queen Elizabeth Hall
20th November 2009



The best jazz festivals make musical history—whether it's bringing together artists who have never played together before, debuting new musical compositions or documenting a significant one-of-a-kind performance with a live recording. Yet it's unusual that all three components align. However, the Monterey Jazz Festival—one of the world's most renowned and prestigious jazz festivals has continuously delivered adventurous programming—has scored that rarified trifecta with the remarkable album **The Monterey Quartet: Live at the 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival**.

It was the first time that the all-star group of bassist **Dave Holland**, pianist **Gonzalo Rubalcaba**, saxophonist **Chris Potter**, and drummer **Eric Harland** ever collaborated together as a quartet, and this recording documents the band's premiere at the Monterey Jazz Festival's 50th anniversary year in 2007. Released on the Monterey Jazz Festival Records label, the recording consists of all new material composed specifically for the project, featuring two songs by each of the participants.

The Monterey Quartet: Live at the 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival was recorded at the silver anniversary event, where the group headlined the arena-sized stage, they performed again at Dizzy's Den, a smaller, more intimate hall on the festival grounds. The main stage premiere thrilled the crowd, but something magical happened the second time the band played. "There was really an electric atmosphere from the audience," recalls Holland. "There was an energy we all felt, that kind of circular energy that goes on between the musicians and the audience. It's a very powerful thing when it really takes off."

Liner note writer Paul de Barros pointed out that all four players "privilege the idea of jazz as a conversation ...which means they are all keen listeners as well as speakers. They can turn on a dime when someone else tosses in a dollar, remaining open to the flow of the music as it manifests itself." He added "These players also share a more elusive quality soulfulness. There is never a moment on this album when you feel the music is being played for stakes any lower than life and death. This is the real deal."

The vision of this quartet came more than a decade before its manifestation. MJF Records General Manager Jason Olaine, attempted to unite Holland with Rubalcaba when the latter's Cuba-based band mates were denied visas to perform in the U.S. However, the timing was off due to Holland's schedule, but he continued to think of the creative potential of such a collaboration. Potter came to Olaine's attention a few years later, and the final puzzle piece was Harland, who, it became apparent to all parties, would be the perfect fit to contribute to the making of a vital quartet.



In the conclusion of his *The Monterey Quartet* CD liner notes, de Barros writes, "For while a ton of work went into writing and rehearsing it, once the downbeat hit, all four players just let the music sing, like it wanted to do. Monterey could not have asked for a better birthday gift."

***The Monterey Quartet: Live at the 2007 Monterey Jazz Festival* is released on 7th November, Catalogue no. 7231244.**

On November 20th, the quartet perform at the BBC Radio 3 London Jazz Festival with support from David Jean-Baptiste + Clarinet Council.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre

Tickets: www.southbankcentre.co.uk \ 0871 663 2500 \ Ticket price: £10, £20, £25

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