



PAT METHENY

NEW ALBUM: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 21, 2011

Record comprises Metheny's personal interpretations of 10 classic songs

'Metheny is that rare jazz musician who combines a pop-composer's instinct for an anthemic melody with a virtuoso ability to play extended spontaneous solos without repeating himself.' *Guardian*

Nonesuch Records releases *What's It All About* - a solo acoustic album from guitarist and composer **Pat Metheny** - on **June 21**. After nearly 40 recordings under his name, this marks the first time there is not a single Metheny composition represented. Rather, *What's It All About* comprises 10 classic songs, some very well known, that hold personal meanings for the guitarist.

Following the Grammy-winning 2001 solo acoustic record *One Quiet Night*, Metheny began regularly playing the specially tuned baritone guitar he used on that album in the breaks between sound check and the show when he was on the road. "Almost every day as I worked through one well-known tune or another, various visitors or local crew people would come up to me and ask which record it was on, and I would have to say that I had never made a record like that," Metheny says. "And over the years, I have had it in the back of my mind that I *should* do an album of some of those tunes at some point."

As with *One Quiet Night*, Metheny recorded the songs on *What's It All About* late at night, in his New York City home over a short period of time. In selecting which ones to put to tape, Metheny says: "I wanted to record some of the music that was on my radar before I ever wrote a note of my own, or in a few cases, even before I played an instrument. I was born in 1954 and all of these songs were in the Top 40 during my childhood and early teen years. It was a period when harmony and melody were still important and viable elements in popular music. Every one of these tunes has something going on that is just hip on a musical level, no matter how you cut it. They have all stuck with me over the years."

Most of the record was made using the acoustic baritone guitar, with three exceptions: Paul Simon's 'The Sound of Silence' is played on a 42-string custom made "Pikasso" guitar, Bob Spickard and Brian Carman's 'Pipeline' is played on a six-string, and John Lennon and Paul McCartney's 'And I Love Her' is played on a nylon string guitar.

Over the course of more than three decades, guitarist Pat Metheny has set himself apart from the jazz mainstream, expanding and blurring boundaries and musical styles. His record-setting body of work includes 18 Grammy Awards in 12 separate categories; a series of influential trio recordings; award-winning solo albums; scores for hit Hollywood motion pictures; and collaborations and duets with major artists such as Ornette Coleman, Steve Reich, Charlie Haden, Brad Mehldau, and many others. His band, the Pat Metheny Group, founded in 1977, is the only ensemble in history to win Grammys for seven consecutive releases.

Tracklisting:

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| 1. The Sound of Silence (Paul Simon) | 7. That's the Way I've Always Heard It Should Be (Carly Simon & Jacob Brackman) |
| 2. Cherish (Terry Kirkman) | 8. Slow Hot Wind (Henry Mancini & Normal Gimbel) |
| 3. Alfie (Burt Bacharach & Hal David) | 9. Betcha by Golly, Wow (Thomas Bell & Linda Creed) |
| 4. Pipeline (Bob Spickard & Brian Carman) | 10. And I Love Her (John Lennon & Paul McCartney) |
| 5. Garota de Ipanema (Antonio Carlos Jobim & Vinicius de Moraes) | |
| 6. Rainy Days and Mondays (Roger S. Nichols & Paul H. Williams) | |

Visit the official **Pat Metheny** website: patmetheny.com

Visit the official **Nonesuch** website: nonesuch.com

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