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For Immediate Release

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**Two-Page NY Daily News Print Interview Feature, NY-1 TV Coverage, All About Jazz Podcast and A-Level National Magazine Reviews On the Way, as Composer/Lyricist/Guitarist Freddie Bryant Earns the Most Significant Media Placements of His Career**

**Double CD 'Upper West Side Love Story' is a Labor of Love; A Sweeping Musical Journey Through the Gentrification of the Upper West Side, Envisioned by a Lifelong Resident**

**NY DAILY NEWS: "An ambitious two-CD song cycle mixing nostalgia with the cold hard truth about the local landscape's changing fortunes through the decades"**

**Featuring Steve Wilson, Donny McCaslin, Regina Carter, Carla Cook, Gwen Laster, Akua Dixon, John Benitez and Alvester Garnett**

A thoughtful and engaging two-page print interview feature in **The New York Daily News**, written by veteran journalist Larry McShane, chronicled the journey of composer, lyricist and guitarist **Freddie Bryant** and the genesis of his sweeping new release, out now. *"From gentrification came inspiration tinged with more than a touch of melancholy. Musician Freddie Bryant returns to his old Manhattan neighborhood for "Upper West Side Love Story," an ambitious two-CD song cycle mixing nostalgia with the cold*

*hard truth about the local landscape's changing fortunes through the decades...."* *"Luckily, the musician's distress provoked a bolt of inspirational lightning."* Read the terrific, substantial article:

<https://www.freddiebryant.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Daily-News-feature-July-3-2023.pdf>



**NY-1 TV** discussed Freddie Bryant's Daily News story in their popular 'In The Papers' segment, and the clip can be seen here (Begins at 1:40):

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/papers/2023/07/03/in-the-papers--07-03-23>

**ALL ABOUT JAZZ** included the track 'Love Can't Live On Nostalgia' On their *World of Jazz New Music Playlist/Podcast*. Listen here:

<https://www.allaboutjazz.com/new-music-from-illegal-crowns-idle-hands-freddie-bryant-and-more-freddie-bryant>



Additional A-level national magazine placements will be out next month, as Bryant continues to earn the most significant media coverage of his illustrious career.

Inspired by Bryant's first-hand experiences as he witnessed the gentrification of his beloved neighborhood, 'Upper West Side Love Story' is a confident and profound work of art - deep, textured and resonant - written from the perspective of someone, from childhood to adulthood, navigating the simple joys, increasing confusion, and, ultimately, the simmering resentments of growing up in a neighborhood that is changing before his very eyes.

At times a wistful valentine and at others a melancholy break-up note, the song cycle is ultimately a complicated love letter to the home Bryant lived in for fifty-four years, from birth until 2019, when he moved to the Bronx. A Private SoundCloud link to hear the double CD, is here: <https://on.soundcloud.com/wEuES>

A new trailer for the project is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUp01LSgnNM>

A music video for Bryant's first single 'Kid'z Rhymes':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cctxEaPpDMU>

A new video for second single "We Used to Dance":

<https://youtu.be/PBOxYX3Eqw0>

Streaming links to the album's singles, and more, are here:

<https://upperwestsidelovestory.com/cd-release/>

**VENTS**  
M A G A Z I N E

#### **VENTS Magazine** - Interview Feature

4/26/23 - Link to expansive Q&A here:

<https://ventsmagazine.com/2023/04/26/interview-freddie-bryant/>

Excerpt: **Major congratulations on the upcoming July 7 double CD release of your new album *Upper West Side Love Story!* What was the genesis of this ambitious double album? How did it come into being?** *Thank you! There were a few stages: 2019 a Grant*

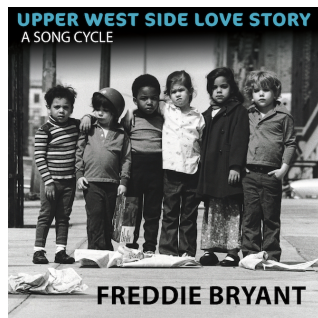
*from Chamber Music America, 2020-2021 writing the lyrics and music during the Covid quarantine, 2021-2022 rehearsing and premiering the music in concerts in the Northeast, finishing the studio recording and 2023 finally releasing the music to the world! In terms of the idea and concept the impetus came from being forced out of our family apartment we lived in for 54 years. It was a struggle that got me thinking about my life, family, friends, upbringing, playgrounds, music and then also the bigger picture of the history and culture of the neighborhood and how it has changed over the years. For me the creative process in music, with lyrics and without, always comes from feelings and emotion and this project had so much to inspire me. I started with the words and three months later after the lyrics were finished came the music - that took a year. I let it grow organically and in the end it took shape in a 16 song suite in two parts - a double CD with 92 minutes of music, like a show, musical or mini-opera. What I'm really happy about is that it works as individual songs in any order and it can also take you through an engaging story from start to finish.*



Bryant's opus, an ambitious work for chamber-jazz ensemble, takes the form of a 16-movement song cycle, constructed as haikus and long form poems, each of which tells a vivid and authentic tale of the beloved neighborhood where he lived most of his life. From childhood memories of his local playground on 87th Street (actually an abandoned space between two buildings,) to post-gig middle-of-the-night walks up Columbus Avenue, to living across the street from legendary artists, to witnessing homelessness and the uprooting of families due to gentrification, 'Upper West Side Love Story' spans the emotional

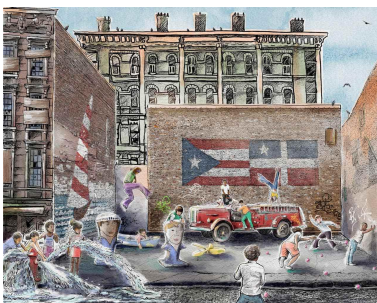
spectrum, with music and lyrics by an artist with a tangible, visceral knowledge of the neighborhood and its idiosyncrasies.

Commissioned by Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works program, 'Upper West Side Love Story' features an all-star nonet: **Carla Cook** – vocals, **Regina Carter** – violin, **Donny McCaslin** and **Steve Wilson** on saxophones and flutes, **Gwen Laster** and **Akua Dixon** filling out the string section on viola and cello with the rhythm section of bassist **John Benitez** and drummer **Alvester Garnett**. The project is available now on Tiger Turn, and is a tour-de-force, conceived by Bryant and executed brilliantly by his remarkable band.



Veteran critic Bill Milkowski, in his companion essay to the upcoming release, describes the diversity of Bryant's compositions: "Musically, Bryant's song cycle ranges from Afro-Cuban bembé and changüí rhythms ("We Used to Dance," "Love Can't Live on Nostalgia") to jaunty swing (the Thelonious Monk-inspired medley of songs based on "Lulu's Back in Town," "Bright Mississippi and "Green Chimney's on "A Walk in the Hood") to soothing ballad to bossa to climactic power ballad ("My Home Sings"), crackling uptempo swing ("High-Rise Kiss"), Afrobeat ("Kidz's Rhymes: Remember This?"), Brazilian samba groove ("Roses and Rubies: The Cost of What We Lost"), earthy blues ("His Bed Is a Box") and reggae ("Central Park Life"). Elsewhere, he channels a searching, latter day John Coltrane spirit on "Moses the Pharaoh: Who Will Stay and Who Will Go?," then conjures up a Chick Corea-like Latin vibe on "Finale — Spoken Word" and summons a Trane-like "Naima" vibe on the wistful ballad "Last Song: It's Time to Say Goodbye." **Taken as a whole, Upper West Side Love Story stands as a crowning achievement in his career.**" Full text of Milkowski's expansive essay is available upon request.

A comprehensive accompaniment to the project, including lyrics, artist notes, images and more, is here: <https://upperwestsidelovestory.com/>. On the official site, 'Upper West Side Love Story' is further described as "a personal history of memories from Bryant's youth and upbringing as well as a commentary on development and gentrification that is happening world-wide. It covers children's playground rhymes, the world-renowned musicians and artists who have lived there, the culture and joys of community as well as the challenges of homelessness and crime throughout the 70s/80s until today. It also contextualizes the development and gentrification that has been underway since the early 60s when Lincoln Center was built, discussing issues of race and class." Track-by-track song notes are here: <https://upperwestsidelovestory.com/notes/>



Bryant also commissioned album art: a mural illustration of the makeshift 'playground' that was on his corner from 1968-1972. The playground had a real (abandoned) fire truck, an eight passenger life-boat, a tugboat propeller, handball courts and two bollards (body-sized cleats for boats,) which were painted as sailors. Its surrounding building walls had murals of a sailboat, the Puerto Rican flag **and** the Puerto Rican revolutionary flag.

The beautiful playground illustration, by **Zoe Matthiessen**, is showcased on the back of the CD as well as in Bryant's extensive 16-page booklet of lyrics.

**More About Freddie Bryant:** <https://upperwestsidelovestory.com/freddie-bryant/>

Freddie Bryant received a master's degree in classical guitar from Yale School of Music and is in demand in the New York jazz and Brazilian scenes where he has worked with Eliane Elias, Tom Harrell and many others. He was a member of Ben Riley's Monk Legacy Septet and has played with the Mingus Orchestra for two decades. He leads his own group, *Kaleidoscope*, and has released eight CDs as a leader. His impressive array of guitar styles have been featured on numerous CDs showcasing his work on acoustic and electric guitars.



His touring has brought him to 55 countries where he collaborated with musicians from a variety of backgrounds, including Indian classical musicians, African singers, oud players, traditional Arab groups and klezmer bands. In 2006, Bryant spent a week in Cuba, performing solo and working with other Cuban musicians. As an impassioned educator, he has taught jazz to all ages around the world and is on the faculties of Berklee College of Music in Boston and Prins Claus Conservatory in Groningen, Holland. 2017 saw the World premiere at the London Human Rights Watch Film Festival of ***Complicit*** with his music score.

He was a recipient of the CMA New Jazz Works Composition Grant and the resulting piece, ***Upper West Side Love Story: a song cycle*** was premiered in 2022 and will be released as a double CD in 2023. It is an epic work – 16 movements/92 minutes for a nine-piece jazz ensemble featuring the all-star cast of Carla Cook, Regina Carter, Donny McCaslin, Steve Wilson, Akua Dixon, Gwen Laster, John Benitez and Alvester Garnett.

His eight CDs include: ***Monk Restrung***, celebrating the music of Thelonious Monk, ***Dreamscape: Solo, Duo, Trio*** featuring Chris Potter and Scott Colley, ***Live Grooves...Epic Tales*** with his band Kaleidoscope including Donny McCaslin and Yosvany Terry, ***Brazilian Rosewood, Boogaloo Brasileiro, Live at Smoke*** with Steve Wilson, Chris Cheek, Diego Urcola, Edward Simon, Edsel Gomez, Avishai Cohen and Jordi Rossy, ***Take Your Dance into Battle*** with Don Braden, Ira Coleman and Billy Drummond as well as ***Trio del Sol*** co-led with Misha Piatigorsky and Gilad.

'Upper West Side Love Story' - Album cover photo by Warren B. Lee

On September 11, 2022, Bryant previewed his upcoming double CD with a live performance at the Byrdcliffe Theater in Woodstock, NY. Read the concert review, here:

<https://nippertown.com/2022/09/14/live-freddie-bryants-upper-west-side-love-story-byrdcliffe-theater-09-11-2022/>

Visit: <https://upperwestsidelovestory.com/>

Visit: <https://www.freddiebryant.com/>

For more information about Upper West Side Love Story, or to request an interview with Freddie Bryant, contact [seth@sethcohenpr.com](mailto:seth@sethcohenpr.com), [www.sethcohenpr.com](http://www.sethcohenpr.com)