



Two for the Show Media

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DRUMMER /COMPOSER VINSON VALEGA AND HIS GROUP RELEASE NEW CD TITLED "BIOPHILIA" FROM CONSILIENCE PRODUCTIONS.

Drummer/Composer **Vinson Valega** offers up one the most creative releases of 2010 with his new CD titled **Biophilia** from **Consilience Productions**. Valega is joined here by an extraordinary ensemble made up of **Anton Denner** on alto saxophone & flute, **Chris Bacas** on tenor and soprano saxophones, **Mark Miller** on trombone, **Matthew Fries** on piano & fender rhodes, & **Gary Wang** on bass. Valega delivers mind-blowing arrangements and originality through his inventive compositional brilliance and his personal interpretations of classics from Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, & Thelonious Monk among others. **Biophilia** is a musical crossing by one of the most inventive musicians and composers to come along in some time –Vinson Valega. The recording is released by Consilience Productions, a non-profit organization that promotes a "dialogue BEYOND music" through their website, liner notes, social networking sites, concert performances, and education. They bring citizens together with jazz music to inspire participation in the issues of the day, increasing civic engagement with their message of "Live Jazz for Social Change!"

"Valega is a spectacular drummer...but obviously much more than a drummer. He is a composer, able to invent interesting and engaging melodies and harmonies, which provide the perfect vehicle for extended improvisations. He is a band leader with the considerable skills to know how to pick the musicians that will make his music as effective as possible."

- Dave Miele, Jazz Improv Magazine

About Vinson:

Vinson Valega grew up in a musical family near Washington, D.C., studying classical piano from age seven until switching to the drums when he was 12. He played drums for three years in the All-County Jazz Ensemble during high school and subsequently held the drum chair in the University of Pennsylvania Big Band during college.

After graduating from UPENN with a B.A. in Economics, Vinson came to New York City in the early 90's to study music at the New School in Manhattan, where he studied with Marvin "Smitty" Smith (of The Tonight Show Band) and Norm Freeman (of the New York Philharmonic).

Vinson has performed in many clubs in the New York Metropolitan area, including the Blue Note, Smoke, 55 Bar, Birdland, Smalls, Cornelia Street Cafe, The Jazz Gallery, Cleopatra's Needle, and Trumpets of Montclair, NJ. An avid composer, Vinson also teaches privately and served on the staff of the Stanford Jazz Workshop in California from 1999-2001. He has toured throughout North America and Europe with his groups and others, and he appears on Matthew Fries' CD, *Song For Today* (TCB) and the Ganz Brother's release, *First Steps* (Extravaganza). Vinson also has four CDs out as a leader, "*Live@147*, *Consilience*, *Awake* and the most recent *Biophilia*.

In addition, Valega has also worked with or played alongside with many of the great musicians in jazz, such as Grover Washington, Jr., Dakota Staton, Clarke Terry, James Williams, Donald Brown, Harold Mabern, Jr., Jamil Nasser, Ron McClure, Bob Mintzer, Peter Bernstein, Terrel Stafford, Eric Alexander, Jim Rotundi, David Hazeltine, Joel Frahm, Dena DeRose, and Vincent Herring, among others.

For more information on Vinson Valega and Consilience Productions go to: www.cslproductions.org