



brian eisenberg
jazz orchestra

pain & beauty



"Pain & Beauty" is a euphemism for my experience of life as a whole. Somehow these two aspects of life exist simultaneously, as if paradoxically each of us is both compelled to endure and invited to experience. We must take the good with the bad, suffer the pain to relish the beauty. We must feel the pain to even appreciate the beauty. Aside from any direct references to the great religious or philosophical traditions of the world, for me the most accurate description of the human experience is "Pain & Beauty."

Pain & Beauty exist everywhere in both the natural and supernatural world—childbirth, brush fires, lava flows, tornadoes, a snake shedding its skin, a caterpillar breaking free from its cocoon to become a butterfly, personal growth as a result of injury or mistakes, personal epiphanies that come as a result of ugly truths, and the most profound example, personal sacrifice for the benefit of another. Perhaps this can be simply called love, as there is no true love without pain.

Thomas Aquinas writes that love is "willing the good of the other as other," and this often comes with great sacrifice, with the chief example being Jesus on the Cross. Even if you're not a believer, I think we can all agree that what Jesus said rings true: "Greater love has no man than this, to lay down his life for his friends."

This album is dedicated to that ideal of genuine love, and to all those who have manifested that ideal with their lives. The "Five Wounds" of Jesus are a meditation on that ultimate purpose of human existence that each of us is compelled to live out—painful yet beautiful love.

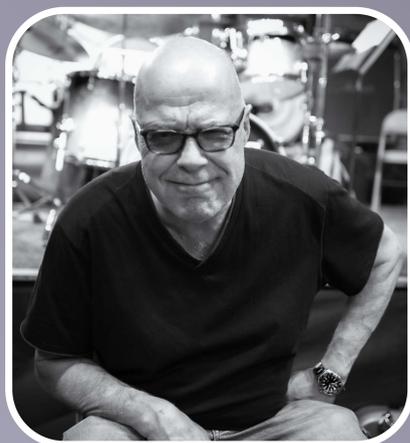
Blessed be God forever...

Recorded at Conway Studios Room C, October 4, 2022, Hollywood, CA. Vocal recorded at Tritone Studios by Tally Sherwood, October 26, 2022, Glenade, CA. All songs composed and arranged by Brian Eisenberg, ASCAP, except "Pure Imagination" composed by Leslie Bricusse and arranged by Brian Eisenberg. Lyrics to "The Cost of War" written by Dusty © 1991, used by permission. Photography by Sam Rabourn and Peter Erskine.

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Woodwinds



Bob Sheppard



Sal Lozano



Brandon Fields



Brian Scanlon



Adam Schroeder



Bob Mintzer

Trumpets



Scott Wendholt



Wayne Bergeron



Sean Billings



Ron King



Trombones



Harrison Kirk



Alex Iles



Erik Hughes



Craig Gosnell



Rhythm Section



Peter Erskine



Trey Henry



Christian Jacob



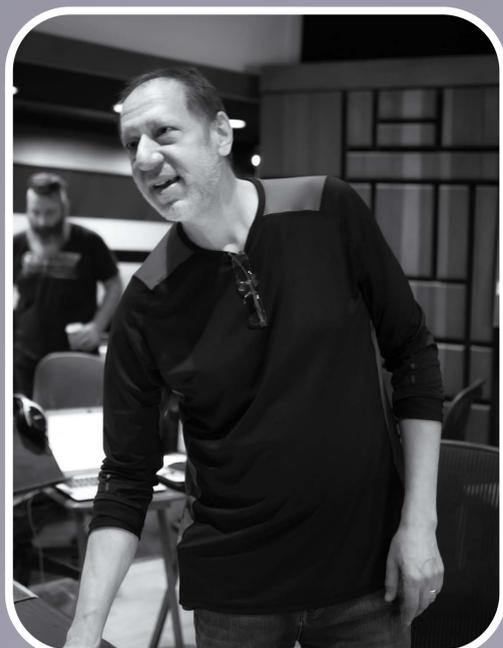
Andrew Synowiec



Brad Dutz



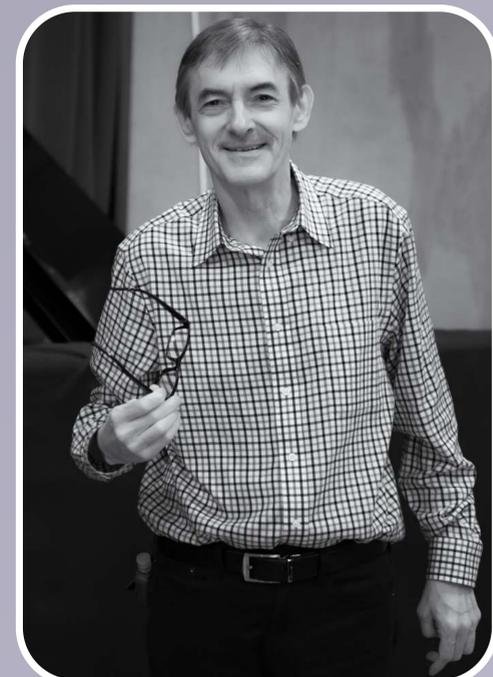
Behind the Scenes



Rich Breen



Sam Rabourn



"The Cost of War" Lyrics (Poems by Nurse Dusty)

(1) "Dried Corsages"

Dried corsages tissue shrouded laid into the crate atop the diaries, atop the poems, atop the yearbooks, detritus of adolescence. The lid clicks-coffin like-embalming my youth in melancholy anticipation. Last day of leave, last day of girlhood, last day of certitude, last day of luxuriant revocable errors. First plane ride, first farewell, first overseas tour, first peek into womanhood's abyss. The crumpled duffel awaits. Decisions I can't make. What do you pack to take to a war?

(2) "Helping Someone to Die"

When you are sitting there working on someone in the middle of the night and it's a 19-year-old kid who's 10,000 miles from home and you know that he's going to die before dawn, you're sitting there checking his vital signs for him and holding his hand and looking into his face and touching his face, and you see his life just dripping away, and you know he wants his mother, and you know he wants his father to be there, and you're the only one he's got. I mean his life just oozing away there, well, it oozes into your soul. There is nothing more intimate than sharing someone's dying with them. This kid should have had a chance to grow up with his loving family around him. Instead, he's got this Second Lieutenant. When you've got to do that with someone and give that person-at the age of 19-the last things they are ever going to say, that act of helping someone die is more intimate than sex; it is more intimate than childbirth, and once you have done that, you can never be ordinary...again.

(3) "My Dead Are Not Silent"

My dead are not silent. They scream in my dreams. My dead are not still. They reach for their mothers. My dead are young soldiers, spent, wasted, discarded. They paid the price for political ploys, for strategic follies, for tactical errors. The politicians and planners, the orderers and senders, discomfited but unashamed demand that my dead lay silent, that my grief be smothered, that my ache be shunned, that my memories be denied, but my dead will not be silenced. They will not be shelved, numbered, cataloged, straightened into sanitized rows. My dead demand remembrance. My dead demand honor. My dead demand that lessons be learned. I hear them still, through my dreams, through my laughter, through my prayers. My dead are not silent.



Meagan Martin



1. BATTLE CRY (9:48)

Solos: Brandon Fields, Alto Sax
Alex Iles, Trombone
Trey Henry, Bass
Scott Wendholt, Trumpet

2. PAIN & BEAUTY (8:56)

Solos: Andrew Synowiec, Guitar
Scott Wendholt, Trumpet/Flugelhorn

3. FIVE WOUNDS (10:53)

Solos: Scott Wendholt, Flugelhorn
Brandon Fields, Soprano Sax
Peter Erskine, Drums
Trey Henry, Bass

4. SCRAM JAM (6:04)

Solos: Brad Dutz, Vibraphone
Brandon Fields, Alto Sax
Bob Sheppard, Tenor Sax
Adam Schroeder, Baritone Sax
Peter Erskine, Drums

5. A SONG FOR RICK (7:50)

Solos: Bob Sheppard, Tenor Sax
Ron King, Flugelhorn

THE COST OF WAR

6. DRIED CORSAGES (2:01)

7. HELPING SOMEONE TO DIE (1:55)

8. MY DEAD ARE NOT SILENT (2:40)

Solo: Meagan Martin, Mezzo-Soprano

9. PURE IMAGINATION (8:19)

Solos: Christian Jacob, Piano
Bob Mintzer, Bass Clarinet

WOODWINDS

Brandon Fields: Alto & Soprano Sax, Flute
Sal Lozano: Alto & Soprano Sax, Flute, Clarinet, Piccolo
Bob Sheppard: Tenor & Soprano Sax, Flute, Clarinet
Brian Scanlon: Tenor Sax, Flute, Clarinet
Adam Schroeder: Baritone Sax, Bass Clarinet

TRUMPET, FLUGELHORN

Wayne Bergeron
Sean Billings
Ron King
Scott Wendholt

TROMBONE

Alex Iles
Harrison Kirk
Erik Hughes

BASS & CONTRABASS TROMBONE

Craig Gosnell

GITAR

Andrew Synowiec

PIANO

Christian Jacob

BASS

Trey Henry

DRUMS

Peter Erskine

VIBRAPHONE

Brad Dutz

COMPOSER/ARRANGER/CONDUCTOR/PRODUCER

Brian Eisenberg

ENGINEERING/MIXING/MASTERING

Rich Breen

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Sam Rabourn

Special Guest Artists:

Meagan Martin, MEZZO-SOPRANO on "The Cost of War"

Bob Mintzer, BASS CLARINET on "Pure Imagination"

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