

KIRK KNUFFKE

PRESS KIT



2017 Jazz Album
the Year- NPR

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For booking information contact

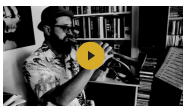
“ Kirk Knuffke is a true individual whose playing is both searching and expansive. Seems he's always up to something new and never fails to surprise. ”

-Mary Halvorson

Andreas Sherrer
Company of Heaven NYC

info@companyofheaven.com

MEDIA LINKS:



[Youtube link:
"Kirk Knuffke 'Arms & Hands'
\(Documentary Short\)"](#)



[Spotify link: "Arms & Hands"](#)



[Dropbox Photo directory](#)



[Spotify link: "Cherryco"](#)

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BIO

One of modern jazz's most skilled navigators of the divide between inside and outside, freedom and swing. Cornetist and Composer Kirk Knuffke has "full command of his most demanding instrument" (*All About Jazz*).

Accolades for Knuffke include NPR's Best Jazz Album of the Year for 2017's *Cherryco* (Steeplechase), winner of *DownBeat Magazine's* "Rising Star" critics poll in 2015, and recipient of the Jerome Foundation Composers grant. He placed 2nd in the world for trumpet in the El Intruso Critics Poll of 2016 and was one of 4 nominees for Trumpeter of the Year by the Jazz Journalist Association in 2014.

Knuffke has released 18 recordings as leader or co-leader and is featured as a sideman on over 50 recordings with leaders Matt Wilson, Allison Miller, Butch Morris, Uri Caine, Pierre Dorge and Michael Formanek to name a few. It's no wonder *The New York Times* tagged Knuffke as "one of New York City's Busiest Musicians."

Originally from Colorado, self-taught Knuffke began playing with Butch Morris after landing in NYC in 2005. This friendship resulted in 4 recordings and several European tours. Knuffke then joined the celebrated Matt Wilson Quartet in 2009, recording *Gathering Call* (Palmetto) featuring John Medeski. Knuffke has benefited from long-term mentorship from both Ron Miles and Ornette Coleman. He also currently performs with Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom, Sifter with Mary Halvorson and Wilson, and groups led by Charlie Hunter, Ben Allison, Ray Anderson, Mark Helias, Bill Goodwin, Karl Berger, Michael Bisio and Ted Brown.

Knuffke's way of "perfectly balancing sly groove and meditative exploration" (*Time Out New York*) has been highlighted during collaborations with a host of incredible musicians including Roswell Rudd, William Parker, Myra Melford, Steve Swell, Marshall Allen, Tootie Health and Billie Hart. He recently recorded a duo with John Medeski slated for 2018.

His 2015 release *Arms and Hands* (Royal Potato Family) garnered praise from every major jazz publication, 4 Stars in *DownBeat Magazine* and a write-up in *The Sunday New York Times*. Feature articles in *DownBeat*, *The Village Voice* and *JazzTimes* have spotlighted Knuffke's unique talent.

2017's *Cherryco* captured Knuffke's "nonchalant versatility and ebullient melodic gifts," (*DownBeat*) and was deemed as "nothing short of spectacular" by *Village Voice* critic Francis Davis.

Knuffke recently contributed to April 2018 *DownBeat's* Brass School Series, penning an article entitled "Time and Tone."

PRESS QUOTES

Knuffke possesses a "combination of history, artistic lineage, and masterful musicality that has marked his swift ascent from sideman to leader to acclaimed firestarter . . . rhythmically precise, New Orleans funky and full of grace . . . his beautiful sound- pure tone, burnished timbre, glistening delivery- was more than the sum of its parts. Knuffke's music is a reflection of his multifaceted personality: part musical sage, part jazz philosopher, a self-taught musician with wide interests, endless curiosity and an abundance of good humor."

-Ken Micallef, *DownBeat*

"Cornetist Kirk Knuffke harbors a dual commitment to formal experimentation and bedrock tradition: There's no either-or. Still, it's not often that you encounter the harmony of forces found in *Arms & Hands* (Royal Potato Family), Mr. Knuffke's excellent new album..."

-Nate Chinen, *The New York Times*

"...Knuffke isn't the least bit reticent about following his restless muse wherever it leads him. The result is a ballooning body of work that is at once prolific, invitingly diverse, and perhaps most dependably, far from predictable."

-Derek Taylor, *Dusted*

"Over the last couple years, New York trumpeter Kirk Knuffke has quietly emerged as one of the most exciting and flexible horn men on the scene."

-Peter Margasak, *DownBeat*

"Kirk Knuffke is a very creative trumpeter . . . explorative and advanced yet concise . . . colorful, witty, unpredictable, inventive and swinging. . ."

-Scott Yanow, *All Music*

"There's a poised fleetness to Knuffke's lines . . . Knuffke employs a range of the history of his instrument . . . Knuffke's stately pathos tells one more in a few held half-valves than most trumpeters could in a lifetime. . . the trumpeter's self-assured assimilation of the post-bop language into free playing is extraordinarily fresh and gimmick-free."

-Clifford Allen, *Bagatellen*

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Most Recent Releases As Leader:

Cherryco (Steeplechase)

2017 NPR Jazz Album Of The Year

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Jay Anderson- Bass

Adam Nussbaum- Drums

Lamplighter (Fresh Sound)

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Stomu Takeishi- Acoustic Bass Guitar

Kenny Wollesen- Bass Drum And Percussion

Bill Goodwin- Drum set

Arms And Hands (Royal Potato Family)

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Mark Helias- Bass

Bill Goodwin- Drums

With Special Guests

Brian Dye- Trombone

Daniel Carter- Alto Saxophone

Jeff Lederer- Soprano/Tenor Saxophone

Little Cross (Steeplechase)

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Jamie Saft- Organ

Hamid Drake- Drums

Recent Collaborations:

Recording Out Soon With John Medeski

Featuring The Works Of Sun Ra

Knuffke/Goldberg Duo

Uncompahgre (Relative Pitch)

Shakers And Bakers

Heart Love, Downbeat 5 Star Recipient (Little (I) Music)

Charlie Hunter

Everybody Has A Plan Until They Get Punched In The Mouth

(GroupUp Music)

Berger/Knuffke Duo

Moon (NoBusiness)

Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom

Otis Was A Polar Bear (Royal Potato Family)

Matt Wilson Quartet

Big Happy Family, Downbeat 5 Star Recipient (Palmetto)

Michael Formanek, Ensemble Kolossus

The Distance, Downbeat 5 Star Recipient (ECM)

Whit Dickey

Fierce Silence (Clean Feed)

Michael Bisio

Row For William O. (Relative Pitch)

Uri Caine

Calibrated Thickness (816 Music)

Frank Carlberg's Big Band

Monk Dreams, Hallucinations And Nightmares (Red Piano)

On-going Groups:

Kirk Knuffke Trio

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Stomu Takeishi- Acoustic Bass Guitar

Bill Goodwin- Drums

Medeski/Knuffke Duo

John Medeski- Piano

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Knuffke/Goldberg Duo

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Ben Goldberg- Clarinet

Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom

Allison Miller- Drums

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Ben Goldberg- Clarinet

Jenny Scheinman- Violin

Todd Sickafosse- Bass

Myra Melford- Piano

Charlie Hunter Quartet

Charlie Hunter- Guitar

Bobby Previte- Drums

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Curtis Fowlkes- Trombone

Matt Wilson Quartet

Matt Wilson- Drums

Chris Lightcap- Bass

Jeff Lederer- Tenor Saxophone/Clarinet

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Ben Allison Quartet

Ben Allison- Bass

Kirk Knuffke- Cornet

Allan Mednard- Drums

Steve Cardeness- Guitar