

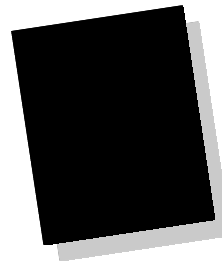
www.alttal.com

Alt Tal

David Alt (saxophone)

Kenny Annis (bass)

Andrew Ryan (drums)



Open The Gates features 11 of Alt's originals which range from blues to freer material. David Alt's playing sometimes recalls that of Steve Lacy and (tone wise on alto) Anthony Braxton but his ideas are fresh and unpredictable. His thoughtful improvisations are consistently relaxed, even in the more heated sections, and have their own logic. To an extent he has created his own musical vocabulary. Kenny Annis alternates between setting accompanying patterns and interacting directly with the saxophonist while Andrew Ryan is mostly in a supportive if stimulating role behind the lead voices. The music is well played, colorful, and well worth exploring.

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Original Jazz Combustion. Alt Tal is a hard-hitting acoustic jazz trio, their latest release *Open the Gates* features memorable melodies and arresting compositions.

Their influences range from Johnny Hodges to Eric Dolphy, John Coltrane to Steve Lacy, as well as Hindustani (Indian classical) influences.

The songs encompassed in this latest release emerge from the fabric of life. Although they do not actually sing the lyrics, the lyrics set the tensions, colors and phrasing of the form.

This music reflects upon rediscovery and reunification, and was inspired by desire, falling in love and enjoying friendship. Political thought inevitably informs the tensions around which the tunes are based.

Open the Gates is an adventurous musical journey of beautiful colors, intensity and satisfying musical experiences. Each cut offers a varying emotion musically and from the listeners standpoint an opportunity to embark on a fulfilling journey of modern jazz.

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David studied clarinet and composition at the Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory and with Charles Bruck at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians.

While earning a Mathematics and Physics degree from MIT, David performed in recital and radio broadcast with Evan Ziporyn, performed chamber music coached by John Harbison and was awarded an Eloranta Fellowship for composing.

In addition to Alt Tal, David produces the chamber Jazz ensemble The Mutual Admiration Org, co-leads the Jazz quartet Theloni On Wry, and teaches music performance, theory and reed-making in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Andrew Ryan has studied and performed music for the majority of his life. Specifically, he has played drums for upwards of twenty years. After graduating high school in 1993 he went on to study percussion at Central Michigan University under the guidance of Robert Hohner. Over the next several years Mr. Ryan performed, recorded, and toured all over the U.S. and Canada as a member of the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble.

In 1999 Mr. Ryan moved to Oakland, CA and began a whole new journey with the study of Afro-Cuban folkloric drumming under the instruction of percussionist extraordinaire Michael Spiro. He has continued to perform in a variety of settings over the last 9 years. From playing bata drums with Susana Arenas' dance company to playing small group jazz gigs with the countless young and vibrant musical talent of the bay area, Mr. Ryan is always trying to move forward.

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Kenny Annis is a multi-instrumentalist out of San Francisco, CA. Kenny studied guitar between 1988 and 1993 under the guidance of jazz guitarist Gary Starling in Jacksonville, FL. In 1993 he moved to New Delhi, India to study Hindustani music with the late Maestro Sharan Rani. He has continued his Indian Classical studies at the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music in San Rafael, CA, and is currently a student of Maestro Steve Oda.

In late 2007 he toured with David J. of Bauhaus, Love and Rockets, and Johnette Napolitano of Concrete Blonde. Kenny has been commissioned to compose and perform with several Bay Area dance troupes, including most recently The Stacy Printz Dance Project. He performs regularly as a solo instrumentalist, and has recorded on numerous recordings with artists from an array of genres and musical backgrounds.

Aside from playing bass in Alt Tal, he currently is the bass player for Oakland punk soul band Damon and the Heathens. He also currently performs with Bay Area musician and performance artist Vinsantos, and is a member of Jill Tracy's Malcontent Orchestra.

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