



## MIKE HOLOBER CANYON

### COMPOSER LEADS A DISTINGUISHED QUINTET ON SMALL GROUP DEBUT Scott Colley, Brian Blade, Tim Ries & Wolfgang Muthspiel

***“The skillful writing and arranging of Mike Holober deserves a medal.”***  
— David Zych, *JazzTimes*

New York, NY - With no medals forthcoming, the work of Mike Holober certainly deserves special treatment in a solo project.

To that end, Sons of Sound is pleased to announce the September 2, 2003 release of *Canyon* (SSPCD016), a uniquely beautiful jazz recording featuring the compositions and piano work of Mike Holober. With Producer **Fred Hersch** behind the board and accompanied by an exceptional quartet of musicians, *Canyon* has the strength and open space of its inspiration.

Friend and respected bassist John Patitucci offers this commentary on *Canyon*: “Mike Holober has put together a recording of thoughtful and beautifully conceived compositions performed by a very sensitive and intuitive group. It really is a breath of fresh air!”

Inspired by years of experience traveling in the outdoors, Holober also draws on diverse musical sources to create *Canyon*. Says the composer: “Like many musicians of my generation, I practiced Beethoven on the piano and listened to Led Zeppelin. Later, I discovered Sonny Stitt, Count Basie, and Bill Evans — ear-opening and life-changing experiences. When I wrote the music for *Canyon* I was striving for a form of acoustic jazz that would be evocative of the simple joy of The Beatles, the sonic bliss of Ravel, melancholy of Joni Mitchell, and the optimism of Copland.”

Joining their colleague to complete the rhythm section for this session are **Brian Blade** (drums) and **Scott Colley** (bass), both winners of their respective categories as “Rising Stars” in the 2002 *DownBeat* Critics Poll. Colley has repeated this accomplishment in the just-released 2003 poll, while Blade has graduated to the #4 Drummer overall.

Blade continues to be one of the most in-demand drummers in contemporary music, appearing on two of the most acclaimed recordings of 2002: *Directions in Music* by Herbie Hancock, and *Footprints Live!* by Wayne Shorter, the latter receiving “Jazz Album of the Year” recognition from the *DownBeat* critics. Colley is currently seen performing with jazz legend Herbie Hancock.

The talents of saxophonist **Tim Ries** have been associated with Maria Schneider, John Patitucci, Larry Goldings, Charles Pillow. Most recently, he has been seen by hundreds of thousands while touring with the Rolling Stones.

A successful solo artist in his own right, guitarist **Wolfgang Muthspiel** has a sound that puts him alongside world-class plectrists Scofield, Abercrombie, Stern, and Towner. His rhythmic interplay and sonic textures provide depth and foundation to Holober’s writing.

Holober will make his follow-up to *Canyon* in 2004 with *Thought Trains*, conducting his own big band, The Gotham Jazz Orchestra, in a performance of his own compositions and arrangements. The recording features the notable contributions of Ron Carter (bass), John Riley (drums), Dave Petro, Tim Ries and Charles Pillow (saxophones), Dave Gilmour (guitars), and other luminaries of the New York jazz scene.

For additional information see the label’s web site at <http://sonsofsound.com/>

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