



PRESS RELEASE

Reuben Fowler Big Band Steely Dan's 'Black Cow' Ubuntu Music – UMB0013

Single Release: Out Now

"...I remember seeing the great Count Basie at a matinee at Birdland, with the great Sonny Payne on drums. When the whole band pumped out one of those thirteenth chords, you could feel the breeze on your face."

-Donald Fagen, 'Eminent Hipsters' (2013)

The jazz influence in Steely Dan's music is unquestionable. A self-confessed jazz nerd, Donald Fagen spends much of his book, 'Eminent Hipsters', waxing lyrically over the effortlessly hip sounds of Henry Mancini and the 'tight arrangements' of the Boswell Sisters. It seemed a natural progression that some day the music he crafted with his partner Walter Becker would find its way back onto the music stands of a full big band...while preserving the understatedly cool musical signature that defines Steely Dan.

Reuben is a 28-year-old composer, arranger and trumpet player based in London. He is the recipient of the 2012 Kenny Wheeler Prize, the 2012 Musicians Benevolent Peter Whittingham Award and the Jazz Services Recording Support Scheme. From touring the world with artists such as Boy George and Paloma Faith to leading his own big band featuring Tom Harrell, Reuben is never short of ideas.

His latest celebrates the 40th birthday of arguably one of the finest contemporary albums of all time--Steely Dan's *Aja*. In true Steely Dan fashion, the recording features 22 of London's finest jazz and session musicians collaborating to perform Reuben's arrangement of *Black Cow*, a Steely Dan masterpiece. Among those contributing are The Average White Band's Hamish Stuart/vocals, Paul Booth/sax and Jason Rebello/keys.

As Reuben explains, *"...as the name of the project suggests, we recorded this as an arrangement painstakingly faithful to the original version with the sole intention of celebrating 40 years of Aja; an album responsible for introducing me to Steely Dan's music that I have lived with and loved for a very long time."*

'Black Cow', the single, is a digital stream and download release only on the Ubuntu Music record label, and can be found on all major digital/streaming platforms throughout the world (such as Apple Music, Spotify, Deezer, Tidal). All proceeds will be donated to Cancer Research's oesophageal cancer unit, in memory of the passing of Walter Becker, co-founder and guitarist of Steely Dan.

Explaining this decision, Fowler continues, *"I started this project around eight months ago with musical buddies Tom Walsh and Darren Williams purely as a labour of love. Sadly, within that time one half of the Donald Fagen/Walter Becker partnership that created 'Steely Dan' as we know it passed away. Martin and I felt that this was the right thing to do to preserve the original spirit of the project while doing something in Walter's memory."*

"I was first introduced Reuben's idea late one night at Ronnie Scott's and never stopped thinking about it since", says Ubuntu's Director, Martin Hummel. *"It's the right time to remind ourselves of just how brilliant this music is and to celebrate its genius. And Reuben, along with his all-star Big Band, is just the guy to make it all happen."*

Future plans include an album of Steely Dan/Donald Fagen material, along with a supporting tour in 2019.

NOTES

Reuben Fowler: www.reubenfowler.com

Ubuntu Music: www.weareubuntumusic.com

Ubuntu Management Group: www.ubuntumangementgroup.com

Ubuntu Music, a division of Ubuntu Management Group, is a progressive recorded music label that is committed to bringing quality, accessible jazz and related music genres to increasingly wider audiences. Our approach includes collaborative efforts with an array of performing artists who have a passion for jazz and who possess unique and diversified talents.

Distribution: ?

Publicity: Emma Perry – tel: 020 8670 1390 / mob: 07818 424 750 / emmasarahperry@gmail.com



CREDITS

LEAD & BACKING VOCALS:

Hamish Stuart

WOODWINDS:

Gareth Lockrane

Graeme Blevins

James Gardiner Bateman

Paul Booth

Leo Richardson

Simon Marsh

TRUMPETS:

Tom Walsh

James Copus

George Hogg

Jim Davison

TROMBONES:

Gordon Campbell

Robbie Harvey

Owen Dawson

BASS TROMBONE/TUBA:

Ade Hallowell

RHYTHM:

Rob Luft (Guitar)

Jason Rebello (Fender Rhodes/Clav)

Laurence Cottle (Bass)

Ian Thomas (Drums)

BACKING VOCALS:

Sharlene Hector

Sumudu Jayatilaka

Mary Pearce

SOLOS:

Jason Rebello- Fender Rhodes

Paul Booth- Tenor Saxophone

'Black Cow'- Donald Fagen/Walter Becker

Arranged by Reuben Fowler

Recorded and Mixed by Darren Williams at 'The Den'

Keyboards recorded at 'Word of Mouth Studios,' London

Bass and Drums recorded at 'Stimia Studios,' London

Trumpets recorded at 'Resident Studios,' London

Co-produced by Tom Walsh and Darren Williams

Mastered by Ian Sefchick at 'Capitol Studios,' Los Angeles

Music preparation by Phil Knights

Cover design by Oliver Bentley at 'Split Design' inspired by the original artwork for 'Aja' by Phil Hartman