

BIOGRAPHY

SHADOWFAX

Windham Hill Recording Artists

Latest Album: Shadowdance, WH-1029 and WT-1029 (cassette)

Shadowfax began as a group in an Illinois farmhouse in the winter of 1972. Chuck Greenberg, Greg Stinson, and Phil Maggini first established the group, later adding percussionist Stuart Nevitt in 1974. Playing a hybrid of jazz, rock, and classical elements, utilizing both complex electronic instruments and traditional ethnic folk instruments, Shadowfax quickly built its reputation in the midwest as one of the most innovative groups to emerge from Chicago, culminating, in 1976, in the group's first recording entitled, Watercourse Way on the Passport/ABC label. Their second LP entitled simply Shadowfax was released in August of 1982 on Windham Hill Records. The album achieved tremendous critical and commercial success. It charted in Billboard and Cashbox magazines for 16 weeks, rising as high as No. 8 on the jazz charts. Since the release of their first Windham Hill LP, Shadowfax has performed to large, enthusiastic crowds at many venues, including the Seattle Opera House, Denver's Red Rocks, Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, the Park West in Chicago, the Greek Theater in Berkely, and New York's Bottom Line. Shadowfax was recently named the Top New Jazz Band by Cashbox magazine and they have shared concert stages with King Sunny Ade, Weather Report, Spyro Gyra, as well as all of the artists on Windham Hill.

In June, 1983, Shadowfax took a month off from their touring schedule to record Shadowdance, their new Windham Hill release. The album combines the acoustic textures of the first Windham Hill record with more electric pieces that reveal the power that the group has generated in live performances. The new LP also showcases the talents of the newest members of the group, Jamii Szmazinski and Jared Stewart, who joined the band early in 1983.

CHUCK GREENBERG

Chuck Greenberg (lyricon & soprano sax) was born in March of 1950 in Chicago and began playing the saxophone at the age of 12. He recorded LPs for Mercury Records and local Chicago labels from 1969-71 during which time he also performed with the Bee Gees on a North American tour. In 1974 his musical expression expanded when he received prototypes of the first lyricon, an electronic wind instrument, and became involved with its development. Greenberg moved to Santa Monica, CA in 1978, has done extensive LP and movie soundtrack session work, and recently contributed instrumentally to Alex de Grassi's LP Clockwork (WH-1018), An Evening With Windham Hill Live (WH-1026), and William Ackerman's Past Light (WH-1028) to be released in November 1983. Greenberg also appears on a new EP by Robit Hairman on Linyl Vinyl Records entitled, Resident Alien. In addition to his work as a member of Shadowfax, he is performing in concerts with William Ackerman.

G. E. STINSON

G. E. Stinson (guitars) was born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma in August of 1949. He began playing the guitar at 15, although his first instrument was the piano. His mother played piano and mandolin in church and his earliest musical influence was gospel. After moving to Chicago his musical interest shifted to blues and in 1970 he performed on a Harvey Mandel LP, Get Off In Chicago. G. E. also appears on the new Robit Hairman EP, Resident Alien. In addition to his musical interests, Stinson is a wildlife advocate and environmentalist.

PHIL MAGGINI

Phil Maggini (bass) was born in March of 1949 in Chicago. Starting with piano at the age of 10, he picked up the bass at 13. While still in high school he played in many Chicago groups and began working sessions at Chess Records, eventually appearing on a 1971 release of a Howlin' Wolf LP. Joining forces with future Shadowfax member Greg Stinson, Maggini shared billings with blues artists Muddy Waters and Hound Dog Taylor under the name of Yazoo Shuffle Band. Since moving to Santa Monica, CA in 1978, Maggini has worked on recording sessions in a wide variety of musical settings, including Robit Hairman's, Resident Alien EP and the new AM release, Sleeping Girls Don't Lie, by Makaface.

STUART NEVITT

Stuart Nevitt (drums, percussion) was born in March of 1953 in Elizabeth, NJ. His father, a drummer, began teaching him the rudiments of drumming at the age of 4. He studied with Gene Thaler for 11 years, and performed in orchestras and rock bands throughout high school. Nevitt attended Miami University in 1973 and 1974 where he had the opportunity to study with Steve Morse, Hiram Bullock, and Stan Semole. In June of 1974 he moved to Chicago where he joined Shadowfax. He has performed and recorded in Los Angeles and Chicago in many musical formats, from the country rock of Heartsfield to the Brazilian jazz of Raoul De Souza. Nevitt also appears on Resident Alien.

JARED STEWART

Jared Stewart (piano, synthesizers) was born in Los Angeles in February of 1956. He studied classical piano for seven years and majored in harpsichord at Los Angeles Community College. Stewart has an impressive list of musicians he has worked with including Little Anthony, Mary Wells, Alphonse Mouzon, and Ambrosia. He joined Shadowfax in December 1982.

JAMII SZMADZINSKI

Jamii Szmazdzinski (violin, baritone violin) was born in 1954 in Michigan. He began his classical violin studies at age 11 and attended the Interlochen Arts Academy and later, the Boston Conservatory. Szmazdzinski has done extensive soundtrack and recording session work as well as tours with many artists including Dave Brubeck, Earl Klugh, and the Philadelphia Jazz Ensemble. He also appears on William Ackerman's soon to be released LP, Past Light, on Windham Hill Records. He became a member of Shadowfax in March 1982.

ALSO APPEARING ON THE ALBUM:

Emil Richards (percussion) is one of the foremost percussion and mallet players in the world. He has worked with artists as diverse as George Harrison and composer Igor Stravinsky. He is equally at home in symphonic and improvisational settings, and has contributed extensively to movie soundtracks and albums.

Additional percussion work was performed by Michael Spiro, Mike Lehocky, and Adam Rudolph.

Also available on Windham Hill: Shadowfax, WH-1022 and WT-1022 (cassette)

Tour Directions:

Bob Engel

Variety Artists

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