



NEW

chapter

The background features a brick wall on the left and a grid pattern with diagonal lines on the right.

the jason klobnak quintet

Right off the top of this set list, the program is plainly spelled out: *Today's Forecast* calls for reverence of the smoky early 60's, a la that rose-tinted from the mid 80's. These here must be clean cut, ambitious young people locking horns for glory's restoration! Just like Blanchard and Harrison before them, we herald the new- "New Morning in America". The lead-off solos even seem to obliquely recall "Part Time Lover," one of Stevie's finer commercial singles of that era, which these dapper cats must have ingested from FM radio between spoonfuls of strained peas. *Wait... What?* ... no, cancel the DeLorian time machine ride; it all seemed so predestined until about four minutes in, when the musicians switched up gears and dropped the beat (and us) into contemporary times, where meaningful music tends to belong... I've got to admit, though: that was pretty hip. And now we must start again. New Chapter.

This is the second album from Colorado's **Jason Klobnak Quintet (JKQ)**. Twenty- some months following the release of the JKQ's very auspicious opening salvo Mountain Move. In the time elapsed since then some key components of the band have changed: a bassist moved to the Big Apple, a keyboardist answered the call of our Uncle Sam. However, much has remained largely constant - chiefly the band leader himself. This Klobnak is the same trumpeter-composer from 2013, only two years more mature, two good strides closer to capturing the elusive Self through creativity. Not much of one for fireworks and revolutionary posture, this guy's more a thinker, a worker. Generous to his well-chosen friends. Likes things kept tidy. Probably plots carefully the route to his destinations but still thoroughly enjoys the journey. But this is Jazz, and a good player or writer or arranger will clearly express to the listener their spirit through the music, and Jason

Klobnak is a real good Jazz musician. His trumpet flights manage to excite without many departures from the instrument's middle register and the compositions prepared for this project gel together on multiple levels, oftentimes breezing melodically above but all business below decks in the engine room. Throughout there's a steady sense of determination, optimism, congeniality and that certain bump which readily identifies this musical strain as early twenty-first century Jazz music, a deep-rooted varietal.

Hailing from Des Moines, IA, it was at the University of Denver's prestigious Lamont School of Music that Jason had the great fortune of finding three of the four players assembled here in support of the music. Our welterweight tenor man is **Elijah Samuels**, originally from California wine country. He plays nicely with Jason in their front-line partnership and gets a lot from his axe. Of particular note check his buzzing, joyful romps on *For Them* and *Forward*. At the piano bench: **Annie Booth**. Already very well known in Denver as a force on acoustic eighty-eights, Annie's turns on the Rhodes are revelations. Her

lithe style is well suited to the instrument on the groovy numbers *Stay in the Game* and *Maybe Next Time*. **Kim Bird** from stormy New England digs deep and pulls hard on her upright bass strings, giving massive uplift to *Breaking Point* and *The Other Side of Circumstances*. **Paul Mullikin** hit an artistic growth spurt these past couple of years, dropping his first album as leader and exploring more deeply his composing talent, and it's reflected in his tuneful drum kit. His work on *It Won't Return Void* is a clicking, popping, swinging masterstroke!

We can roundly declare that the JKQ not only evaded the dreaded "sophomore slump", but managed to expand upon the victories of their previous album. This enduring music and the artists who make their home and livings in the Centennial State keep me in a state of genuine *Awe...* It's my hope that you, I and the JKQ can meet like this again in maybe another two years, when the next record is ready...

Erik Troe, host of "Jazz Caravan"
KUVO- 89.3 FM Denver, Colorado



There are a number of people that helped make New Chapter a reality that I would like to thank. Thank you to my lovely and talented wife, Sarah, for standing with me and walking through this new chapter of our lives, together- you are simply amazing! To my daughters, Natalie + Tiana, who have listened to daddy work this out for countless hours. To Elijah, Annie, Kim and Paul: You truly make my music come alive, better than I could have ever imagined. To Xandy and Colin: Thank you for your expertise and time at Mighty Fine. This album was made in part thanks to the "Pathways to Jazz Grant" from the Boulder County Arts Alliance (Boulder, CO). My deepest appreciation goes to three generous contributors: Guy & Patty Gilreath and Terrie Phillips. If it had not been for your support, this album would not have come to fruition. To my fans and supporters throughout the years: This music is for you. I am extremely honored to have your continued love and support.



**Jason Klobnak | TRUMPET Elijah Samuels | TENOR SAX Kim Bird | BASS
Annie Booth | PIANO + RHODES Paul Mullikin | DRUMS + PERCUSSION**

**5:44 | Today's Forecast: Sunny, High Of
80 Degrees And A Chance Of Snow**

7:23 | Breaking Point

6:55 | Awe

9:05 | New Chapter

6:03 | Stay In The Game

6:05 | Forward
(Dedicated to Terrie Phillips)

5:23 | Maybe Next Time

6:19 | For Them
(Dedicated to Guy & Patty Gilreath)

5:16 | It Won't Return Void

9:31 | The Other Side Of Circumstances

6:16 | Wait... What?

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All songs written and produced by Jason Klobnak. Recorded at Mighty Fine Productions,
Denver, Colorado, May 2015. Tracking and Mixing by Xandy Whitesel and mastering
by Colin Bricker. Photography by Danny Odom. Artwork by Sarah Klobnak.
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Photo by Danny Odom

