

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Doug Wamble

"...Wamble has devised a unique style all the more impressive for its distinctive personal nature. These days, in particular, a rare, inclusive talent like this comes as nothing less than a gift." -*Barnes & Noble*

"...this guitarist, singer, and composer is a one-man compendium of avant Americana." -*New Yorker*

"...[Wamble's music] is as fascinating as it is idiosyncratic...a guitarist-singer-composer with a bright future." -*Los Angeles Times*

"...Mr. Wamble, the guitarist who has been heard with Wynton Marsalis, Cassandra Wilson and Steven Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra, blends...country, blues, gospel, soul and his own blue-eyed soul singing." -*New York Times*

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010, E1 Music will release a self-titled album by singer-songwriter/guitarist **Doug Wamble** featuring special guest appearances by **Charlie Hunter**, **Carrie Rodriguez**, **Steven Bernstein** and **Jonah Smith**. Produced by **Lee Townsend** (**Bill Frisell**, **Kelly Joe Phelps**, **Loudon Wainwright III**), *Doug Wamble* marks the venerable artist's third solo studio recording effort. Interviews and photos are available upon request.

Since moving to New York City in 1997, Wamble has found himself working alongside some of today's top contemporary artists including **Wynton Marsalis**, **Cassandra Wilson**, **Norah Jones**, **Madeleine Peyroux** and countless others. He appeared on Marsalis's *Big Train* and Wilson's *Traveling Miles*, and has released two critically acclaimed albums on Marsalis Music, entitled *Country Libations* (2003) and *Bluestate* (2005). Wamble has written various arrangements for the Lincoln Center Jazz Band, toured as Madeleine Peyroux's guitarist, and performed regularly with trumpeter Steven Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra. On *Doug Wamble*, the Memphis-raised musician returns to his Southern roots while bestowing every bit of inspiration he's picked up along the way.

When a musician is born into gospel and blues music, its soulful imprint somehow never leaves their bloodstream. The 10 original songs on *Doug Wamble*, plus a closing cover version of **Fiona Apple's** "I Know," blend a bounty of soul, gospel, blues, R&B, country, pop and folk inspirations into a deeply personal and original sound. Wamble comments, "I grew up listening to my mother play piano in our local Southern Baptist church, and my grandfather strum and sing hymns and cowboy songs. I adore these styles of music. The first guitar I put my hands on was my grandfather's 1962 Gretch Corvette, which I play on this album, on the track 'Oh Heaven.'" Versatile songwriting and warm, melodic singing are complemented by his virtuosity on the electric and slide guitar. Wamble effortlessly portrays an authentic musical voice ready to be embraced by the masses.

Many of the songs on *Doug Wamble* address life choices, Wamble explains, whether they're about "being happy and content, and being uncomfortable about it" ("Sweet Return to Madness"); "not letting your demons define your future" ("Bitter Angels"); or "convincing someone that they are exactly what you want, no matter what" ("Home"). Other tunes tap into a broad array of noted influences. Of the opening song, "Think About It All," which features a boisterous horn section and interlocking guitar parts with Charlie Hunter, he says, "I got the horn ideas from **Donny Hathaway's** 'Everything Is Everything,' so it's halfway between Donnie Hathaway and a **Stax** record." "Freezer Burn" is "a history of the poorest choices in my romantic life," Wamble says, with the gritty music coming in part from listening to the late blues-rocker **Chris Whitley**. And "I Needn't Try," with its insistent New Orleans groove, is "a little bit of a nod to my jazz sensibilities."

The core band on *Doug Wamble* carries over from Wamble's first two albums, featuring a trio of musicians that he met during his jazz studies at the University of North Florida: **Roy Dunlap**, piano, organ and keyboards; **Jeff Hanley**, acoustic and electric bass, percussion; and **Peter Miles**, drums and percussion. In working with Lee Townsend, Wamble notes, "Lee was the catalyst for this entire project. He really believed in the music. He heard my five-song demo and we ended up recording an album even before a deal was signed. Ya know, you can work hard and practice, but if you don't have someone else who believes in you, it's really hard. I can be a very stubborn artist, but when you work with Lee, there is nothing but integrity and trust."

Wamble's homecoming to the gospel and blues music he was raised on sets the stage for his most inspired recording effort to date. Having the invaluable experience of working with many lauded artists and coming into his own as a bandleader over the past decade, he emerges in full bloom on *Doug Wamble*.

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