

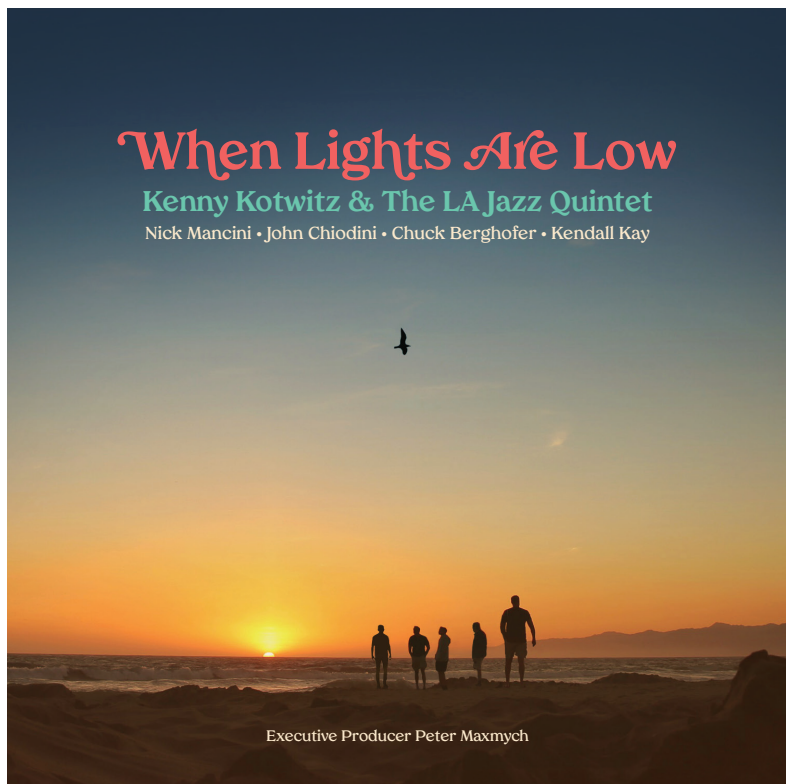
new release

file under: **JAZZ** RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 1, 2020



KENNY KOTWITZ & The LA JAZZ QUINTET "WHEN LIGHTS ARE LOW"

When Lights Are Low pays tribute to the classic sound of the Art Van Damme Quintet during Van Damme's centennial year. The superior mood music features atmospheric standards performed by accordionist Kenny Kotwitz, guitarist John Chiodini, vibraphonist Nick Mancini, bassist Chuck Berghofer, and drummer Kendall Kay.



Artist: KENNY KOTWITZ
Title: WHEN LIGHTS ARE LOW
Artist Website: lajazzquintet.com
Release Date: August 1, 2020
Label: PMRecordsLLC
Catalog Number: 2020 PM Records, LLC
UPC Code: 015882075718

Suggested Airplay Tracks 4.5.6.9
Airplay Starts 8.3.20

Track listing

1. When Lights Are Low 4:29
 2. Skylark 5:08
 3. Cry Me A River 4:37
 4. Estate Summer 6:15
 5. When Sunny Gets Blue 4:36
 6. Crazy She Calls Me 2:48
 7. Darn That Dream 4:12
 8. Harlem Nocturne 4:13
 9. Manhattan 3:06
 10. Mood Indigo 5:01
 11. Polka Dots And Moonbeams 4:12
 12. Stairway To The Stars 4:22
 13. When Lights Are Low (Reprise) 2:02
- TOTAL TIME: 55:01

Musicians: Kenny Kotwitz - Accordion and Celeste, John Chiodini - Guitar(s), Nick Mancini - Vibraphone, Chuck Berghofer - Upright bass, Kendall Kay - Drums and Percussion

A few years ago producer Peter Maxmych, a big fan of the Art Van Damme Quintet, organized a group to bring back the classic sound for The Montreal Sessions. That release featured one of Van Damme's few students, accordionist Kenny Kotwitz. Now, in the centennial of Van Damme's birth, the LA Jazz Quintet has been organized with Kotwitz providing colorful arrangements in addition to his accordion.

Filled with studio and jazz veterans, each of whom have an endless number of credits, the LA Jazz Quintet consists of Kotwitz, guitarist John Chiodini, vibraphonist Nick Mancini, bassist Chuck Berghofer, and drummer Kendall Kay. Although all of the musicians are superior soloists, the emphasis throughout *When Lights Are Low* is on the sound of the ensemble, the blend between the instruments, and relaxed tempos.

The inventive and subtle arrangements have the melodic lead passed between the accordion, vibes, guitar and bass in seamless fashion. Among the songs that the group revives and uplifts are Benny Carter's "When Lights Are Low," "Skylark" (performed as a jazz waltz), "Cry Me A River," "Crazy She Calls Me," "Darn That Dream," "Harlem Nocturne," and "Mood Indigo." Each performance leads logically to the next one with the atmospheric and often-haunting ensemble sound of the LA Jazz Quintet in the forefront.

Art Van Damme (1920–2010) was the pacesetter among jazz accordionists. He was on the staff of NBC for 15 years and in 1947 began leading a group that was inspired by the George Shearing Quintet but with his accordion in place of the piano. Over its 35-year existence, the Art Van Damme Quintet made dozens of popular recordings.

Kenny Kotwitz, who learned directly from Van Damme, became a busy studio musician in Los Angeles in 1966 and, in addition to his work on accordion, has been an arranger-composer and pianist in a countless number of settings. He has worked with the likes of Michel Legrand, Dave Grusin, Johnny Mandel, Ray Brown, and Joe Venuti, leading several records of his own, and recording the 1983 album *Art Van Damme and Friends* with his idol.

When Lights Are Low is a delightful and mellow outing that one could easily imagine Art Van Damme enjoying.

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