

“IT’S THE TYPE OF MUSIC THAT TELLS A STORY FROM START TO FINISH.”

IN THE
SAME DIRECTION
JEFF PIFHER & SOCRATES’ TRIAL[®]



DIRECTED BY ALEXANDER CRAVEN PRODUCED BY JEFF PIFHER & MERLIN SHOWALTER

MUSIC BY JEFF PIFHER & SOCRATES’ TRIAL[®] STRING ARRANGEMENTS & CONDUCTOR HARLAN HODGES

English, 17 Minutes | Completed January 2020 | Filmed in Los Angeles, CA | Email: jeffpifher@gmail.com | www.jeffpifher.com



SYNOPSIS

From the inception of a musical idea, through the recording process and live performance, this short documentary tells the story of Jeff Pifher and his band Socrates' Trial and their idea of what jazz can be today.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Music has an intangible quality which is better experienced than explained, and Jazz is by nature improvisational. It can be among the most collaborative of mediums - one in which leaders become followers, and back again. While many documentaries have sought to capture the lifestyle of being a musician, I felt few have shown the moment-to-moment nature of playing in a band. With strong storytelling elements already present in the music of Jeff Pifher and Socrates' Trial, whatever its genre may be, I sought not to explain but to allow the audience to celebrate in this creative musical process. The journey is in the music.

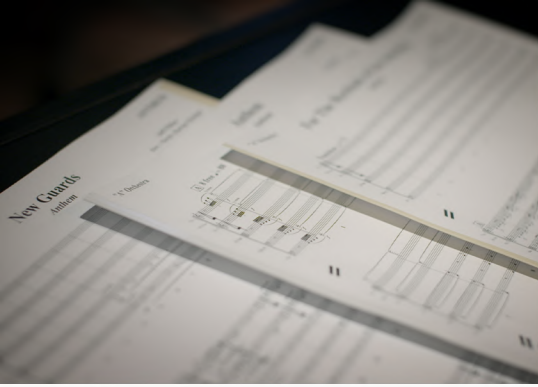
- Alexander Craven

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

While jazz is America's true original art form, this music is highly underrepresented and often disregarded because it may be viewed as too complicated, lacking melody or steady rhythm like a dance beat, and less accessible because it is often completely instrumental. Jazz music provides a rich and colorful pallet open for interpretation. It is unique in its sameness to open a dialogue—a dialogue that only jazz can have with its creators and audience. It is my hope that a look inside the creative process and interactions between a cast of real characters passionate about this music will help expand the jazz and improvised music audience as well as begin to break down negative stigmas long held in place.

- Jeff Pifher





THE MUSIC

Several music genres inspired this project: classical, rock, pop, and jazz. In particular, music for film has caught my ear because of its often soaring melodies and more accessible harmonic approach. I wanted to find a way to incorporate these qualities along with improvisation and the jazz language. When people ask me to describe my music, I tell them it's "cinematic jazz". This music has the strong melodic and storytelling qualities that you often hear in film scores or soundtracks but with the long improvised solos we often associate with jazz. It's really programmatic music similar in concept to what composers like Berlioz have done. There are clear themes and storylines. For this record I took many of the qualities that we hear in rock anthems and adapted them to fit the sound of this band as well as a string orchestra.

This third studio album with my band Socrates' Trial entitled *Anthem* is a 60 minute suite that tells a story. All of the tracks combine to make one continuous piece of music. I chose the Declaration of Independence as inspiration. This music follows the historical document's pronouncement for freedom, culminating in its call to set in place "new guards". Many of the titles are taken directly from the text in the document. There are musical transitions featuring different band members between each movement.

I like to think of an anthem as a form of folk music; music that stems from popular culture and influences. Anthems are songs of importance to a particular group of people or culture. With these ideas in mind, this record represents my anthem.

- Jeff Pipher (September 2019)



“JAZZ CERTAINLY IS AN UNINHIBITED ART FORM. IT’S ONE WHERE YOU’RE CREATING IN THE MOMENT. IT’S COMPOSITION IN THE MOMENT.” - JEFF PIFHER

ALEXANDER CRAVEN (DIRECTOR)

Alex spent his childhood making movies with his friends. In college, he helped start a nationwide IP-TV network that quickly grew to a \$30m operating budget. He then worked for Gore Verbinski’s Blindwink during production of RANGO and attended ArtCenter College for his MFA, where his directing work won the departmental scholarship both years.

Alex’s work represents a bravely-human approach to suspense stories that explore modern identity and relationships. This often includes a psychological element that helps unlock a unique point-of-view and garners empathy for characters on the fringe of society in fresh ways.



JEFF PIFHER (PRODUCER & BANDLEADER)

Jeff earned degrees from Eastman School of Music (B.M., '07) and Univ. of Miami (M.M., '11) as well as a certificate in arts entrepreneurship from the Univ. of Southern California. With Socrates’ Trial, he has released three studio recordings since 2018: *Socrates’ Trial* (2018), *Alternate Futures/Past Realities* (2019), and *Anthem* (2019). Jeff’s original compositions were inspired by classical and jazz legends as well as his desire to transform rhythms into melodies that tell a story. The influence of rock, pop, and even classical elements, combined with jazz roots as reflected in extended improvisations, result in an expressive yet cohesive band sound, and help create a memorable and entertaining audience experience.



"WE'VE DONE SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT..." - HARLAN HODGES

HARLAN HODGES (STRING ARRANGER/ORCHESTRATOR)

Composer Harlan Hodges writes, performs and records music that blends the lonesome, smoky, and distant atmospheres of the American Southwest with the lush harmonic language of jazz and vibrant melodies of the Hollywood Golden Age. Classically trained and self taught in jazz, Harlan's music embraces the intimate relationship between styles, improvisation, performance, cutting-edge technology, and craftsmanship. The soulful call of blues, rolling rhythm of Western Swing, driving forces of rock and the great orchestral literature have all contributed to an eclectic and versatile background for his unique approach to scoring in modern cinema.



RENÉ G. BOSCO (MODULAR SYNTHESIZERS)

René is a composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist. He's contributed music to over 100 television episodes including Riverdale, Blindspot, The Flash, as well as independent films. After moving to L.A. in 2013, René began working alongside composer Blake Neely. During the following 3 years, he arranged, programmed, performed, and composed music for TV shows such as Arrow, The Mentalist, Supergirl, DC's Legends of Tomorrow, and others. Since branching out on his own, René has composed scores for feature films, documentaries, mini series, and movie trailers. He's also created music for commercial clients including Warner Bros, Chevrolet, Gerber, and other companies.

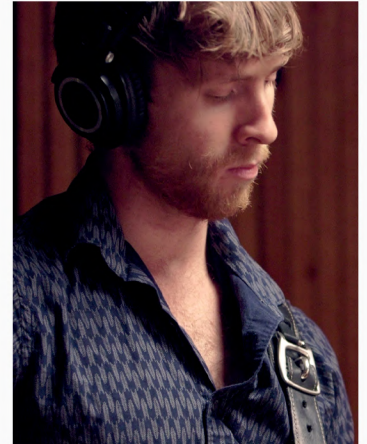


Photo: Elaine Torres

“IT’S ABOUT GETTING TO THOSE EPIC MOMENTS, WHERE WE’RE ALL CONNECTED AND MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.” - COREY COVERSTONE

COLIN COOK (GUITAR)

Colin Cook is a 27-year-old Los Angeles-based guitarist involved in dozens of projects across all genres. Most recently, Colin recorded with Cameron Graves supporting his sophomore release, alongside Mike Mitchell and Max Gerl. Legendary recording engineer, Gary Lux, produced the record, which also features Stanley Clarke, Robben Ford, and Kamasi Washington. Last year he contributed to drumming sensation Blaque Dynamite aka Mike Mitchell’s newest record, which is scheduled for official release in spring of 2020. Colin is also a newly endorsing artist of Abasi Concepts guitars, a company founded by Animals as Leaders legendary guitarist Tosin Abasi.



COREY COVERSTONE (DRUMS)

Corey Coverstone, born and raised in Portland, Oregon, moved to Los Angeles in 2009. He studied with musicians such as Nate Morton (Cher, Natalie Cole, Chaka Khan) and Jamie Faunt (Chick Corea, Don Ellis). Corey’s notable gigs include: Seasons 1 and 2 of NBC’s “The Voice”, Sophie B. Hawkins, Lili Haydn (Hans Zimmer), and Rafael Moreira (Pink, Paul Stanley). Currently Corey is touring with the band Dirty Honey opening for acts such as Guns & Roses, The Who, and Slash. Dirty Honey is the first unsigned rock band to have a #1 Billboard single. His newest personal project and EP, Punch the Shaman, features Tim Lefebvre, Jeff Babko, and Colin Cook.



"THIS SETTING IS WELCOMING...LETTING AN AUDIENCE BE CONNECTED AND GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC PROVIDES." - ERIC ENGLAND

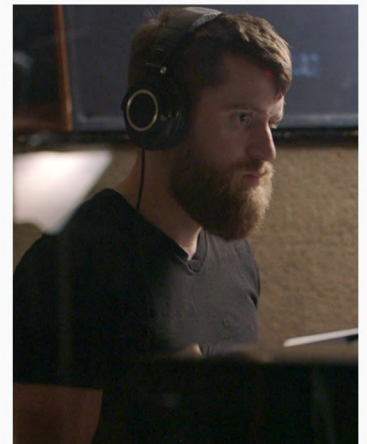
ERIC ENGLAND (BASS)

Originally from New Jersey, Eric grew up in a musical family being exposed to many types of music. Playing both electric and acoustic bass are his passion. It was during his high school years that he grew to love jazz. Eric attended the Frost School of Music at The University of Miami. Before graduating he worked in the city's music scene covering a vast variety of music styles while gaining invaluable experience. Eric currently resides in Los Angeles, California where he continues to gain experience as a top call musician. He has worked and recorded with such artists and groups as Socrates' Trial, Jon Secada, Nicole Henry, Rihanna, and Nu-Jive amongst many others.



MISHA BIGOS (PIANO & KEYBOARDS)

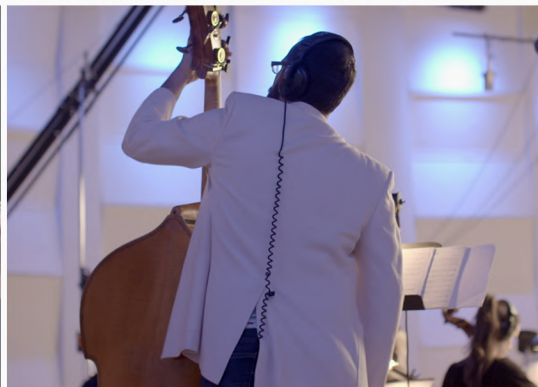
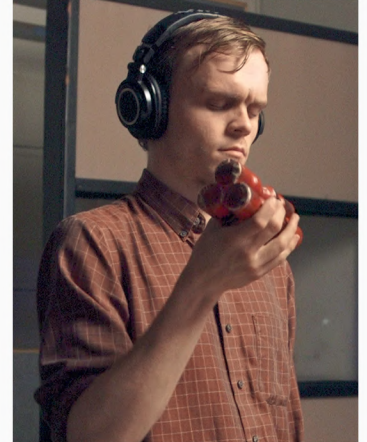
Composer and pianist Misha Adair Bigos grew up in Seattle, Washington. After graduating from Gonzaga University he played piano on cruise ships for over two years. In 2012 he moved to Los Angeles to earn his Masters degree at the University of Southern California, where he studied piano with Alan Pasqua and voice with Sara Gazarek. Misha created Yarlung Records first iconic jazz recording with the Sophisticated Lady jazz quartet and inaugurated the new label, Andelain, with his solo piano debut titled *Misha*. He currently works as a freelance musician, performing all over the country with such artists JMSN and Lola Lennox. Misha also teaches music at HOLA Music Studios.



“JAZZ IS THE INDIGENOUS ART FORM OF AMERICA. I THINK OF IT AS HOW JAZZ INSPIRES ME AND WHAT I DO FOR OTHER PEOPLE.” - IAN WURFL

IAN WURFL (PERCUSSION)

Ian's work as a performer has already placed him in diverse stylistic musical contexts. He has played in concert with the likes of John Fogerty, Jacob Collier, Chaka Khan, Steve Vai, and Pepe Aguilar. He has also performed in tribute performances for Songwriter Hall of Fame inductees Lamont Dozier and Bill Withers. Ian recently conducted two pop orchestras featuring the arrangements of Patrice Rushen, as well as some of his own. Having received his Bachelors of Music from the University of Southern California, Ian is fueled by his well-rounded musical training, his exposure to diverse contemporary musical styles, and his innate musicality and artistic sensibilities.



“IT’S REALLY THE CRY OR CALL OF ACTION TO HAVE PEOPLE BE WHO THEY WANT TO BE AND NOT THINK ABOUT WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE THINKS.”

- JEFF PIFHER





PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed by Alexander Craven
Executive Producer: Jeff Pifher

Producer, Director of Photography, Editor: Merlin Showalter
Editor, Graphics, Coloring, Camera Operator: Daniel Riser

Special thanks to Nick Campbell (electric bass on live show)

Anthem Mixing: Jason LaRocca
Engineer: Brendan Dekora

Live at Bluewhale Mixing: Brad Cobb
Engineer: Brad Cobb

Anthem Mastering: Justin Perkins
Live at Bluewhale Mastering: Justin Perkins

Mixing and Mastering for Picture: Nathan Alef

Camera Operators: Alejandro Echevarria, Dijon Herron,
John Wilbers, Ricky Chavez, Issac Park
Camera Assistant: Michael Justin
Jib Operator: Dijon Herron
Additional footage: James Cooper





SOCRATES' TRIAL[®]

Jeff Pifher (tenor saxophone), Colin Cook (electric guitar),
Misha Bigos (piano and keyboards), Eric England (electric bass),
Corey Coverstone (drums), Ian Wurfl (percussion)

Harlan Hodges: String Arrangements and Conductor
Megan Shung: Concertmaster

Featured Compositions:

“Anthem”, “Prudence”, “For The Rectitude Of Our Intentions”,
“New Guards” *Anthem (2019)*

Composer: Jeff Pifher, String Arrangements: Harlan Hodges

“Equal Station” featuring Corey Coverstone, *Anthem (2019)*

Modular Synthesizers: René G. Boscio

“Homage” *Anthem (2019)*

Composer: Jeff Pifher

“Patience” featuring Misha Bigos, *Anthem (2019)*

“Anthem” *Live At Bluewhale (2019)*

Composer: Jeff Pifher, String Arrangements: Harlan Hodges

