

## *The Look Book*

*Where music meets the eye and art meets the ear*

### About the Artists

### The Collaborators

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I reached out to tenor saxophonist, composer, and arranger, **Ada Rovatti** to collaborate on some songs that were still works-in-progress in 2013. I played her a handful of tunes and ***Circle in a Square*** was the one that she gravitated toward. I thought that we'd give it a swing feel, but she answered with a groove and harmonic sensibility that took it to another place. I asked her to write a soli section (a composed solo) that she and I could do together, but when I heard the changes, I suggested the 3 against 4 feel and it inspired me to write a new melody. Suddenly it felt like one of those Beatles bridges. The added lyric made reference to Sir Isaac Newton's third law of motion: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This idea tied in nicely with the head of the tune and its homage to a person's love of his/her record collection, the analog of the past, and how music can transport us right back to a certain time and place. The song is a tour de force, but that's the challenge and wonder of writing and editing, always balancing that creative pendulum.

I've been working with master pianist **Andy Ezrin** since I joined the **New York Voices** in 1992, but this is the first time we've partnered on a full recording project and put our musical minds together. By the time we started to prepare the music for the recording, there was one tune that was still unfinished, having only melody and lyric and no underpinning. I thought it would be the lone swing tune on the project, but Andy had other ideas. He created an entirely different groove and vibe for what is ***Pocketful of Harlem***. I often find the last song written for a project has an immediacy, a sort of less self-conscious result, due to the imminent session date and there being no time to over think. Suddenly a groovy 12<sup>th</sup> song was added to the line up for **Circle in a Square**.

I've known **Jiro Yoshida** since my days at **Berklee College of Music** in the mid 80's. He is a gifted guitarist, composer, arranger and producer. We partnered on a CD of standards entitled **Guitar and the Moon** in 1999 and have collaborated over the years on various projects. I found an instrumental track on one of his recordings that I thought would fill a Be Bop moment on the project. I asked if I could write a lyric to his ***Bear Walk***. The title immediately inspired a story that spins off of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," only it winks at more mature subtext. I asked Jiro to write a 'take it to the bridge' moment, cementing a solid head that is super satisfying to sing.

**Peter Eldridge** is my colleague in **New York Voices** and we share a passion for songwriting that has bonded us for life. He and I have worked closely over the years, supporting one another in our various solo projects and group efforts. He is a masterful composer and our collaborations always seem to transcend our individualities and make for a greater whole. *The Deep Within* is no exception. I wrote the poem during a very challenging time in my family's life. The central theme is of healing and renewal, the end of a long winter season that brings new life in the spring. We set the poem to this motivic rhythm that rocks you and helps you hear the message intensely. The instrumental interlude offers a brief break from the heavy prose, allowing a final chorus to just hang in the air.

## The Visualists

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The main crux of the artwork comes from my family. I grew up in a household where the creative muse was always amiss. My mother, **Linda Kinhan**, has been an artist her whole life, often retiring to the basement to copy a Kandinsky or have her babies sit for pastel portraits. One of my earliest memories is when my mom took up sculpting and made these beautiful babies in child's pose. I thought they were wondrous. My mom began collecting art from our local scenes and developed her own eye for what she loved. Slowly, these same artists became a part of our extended family. She identifies with the artist lifestyle and created a rich environment for her four children to thrive. Over the years she has continued her painting, and raised a fine artist in my brother David. I have collected her work and commissioned her to paint something specific for this book. She was immediately drawn to *We're not going anywhere today*. Her rough drafts were haunting and beautiful, but when the acrylic touched the canvas, I knew she captured this couple's state of affairs. "It's not finished," she said. "Maybe not," I said, "but for now..." I selected two other pieces from my personal collection. I chose her painting, "The Pieta," for *Another Hill to Climb* which depicts a father holding his baby in the aftermath and rubble of Hurricane Hanna in Haiti in 2008. No words needed. And the crayon rendering of Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, Oregon is wonderful. Many, many people have painted, photographed and wondered at this monolith. It has its own ecosystem ruled by the tide; exploring it is a pleasure worth experiencing. It hugs *To Live or Die* because the question of life has no real answer other than that we are our own monoliths, with our own ecosystems, ruled by unknowable variables, and we can be the rock, if we so choose. Thank you mom for helping me see with my heart and sing with my eyes.

My brother **David Kinhan** is a fine artist, also residing in Cannon Beach, Oregon. He has been painting his entire life and I have been a fan for just as long. I chose his beautiful watercolor of a wooded scene to represent *The Deep Within* for its stark and elegant beauty. The song is about our renewable spirit, our ability to heal and recover, just like the trees in spring in the deep woods of our over-logged Oregon Mountains.

My cousin **Paul Slifer** is a fine artist and esteemed tattooist residing in Scotland, having graduated from **Rhode Island School of Design**. He was the first to respond to my call for art, and turned out the essence of *My Painted Lady Butterfly*, a stunning watercolor on tea stained paper. I think she is divine. Check out his illustrated children's book of the Alphabet – based on traditional tattoo art. If you want an artful spin on the ABC's, look no further, "**A is for Anchor.**" Best new baby gift ever!

**Amy Estrin** has been a part of our extended family since the Oregon Trail led us from Phoenix to Portland. She graduated from **The Museum Art School** (currently called **PNCA**) in 1982, and has shown extensively in Portland. Eventually, she and her jazz drummer husband took over her families gorgeous fabric store, **The Whole 9 Yards**. You can commission a painting or an upholstered chair from her; both come to life with her unique views on color, texture and mischief. We decided **Chaussure's Complex** would be a good fit for her brushes. The dance of love has a pair of shoes to wear now! And her **Moon Face with Flower** has been hanging in our family home for over 30 years. I have loved this painting for as long and felt like she needed to open **Circle in a Square** and the book of lead sheets. She is so content, quiet and welcoming, just the right image to invite you in.

I met **Don Frank** at my **Avalon** CD release concert at the **Coaster Theatre Playhouse** in Cannon Beach in 2010. He is a wonderful commercial, editorial and fine art photographer. My mom asked him to photograph the show and we parlayed it into a full-blown shoot. We took a series of shots in the dressing room, ran out to the beach and then he shot the concert. I have used many of those photos for the press shots for **Avalon**. I asked him if he would shoot an image for one of the songs on the project, he chose **I'm Lookin' for that Number**. The scene he set, to me, is essentially the "poker table of life," and the subject is my brother David. There was not a lot of role research required as he is very familiar with that game.... aren't we all?

And finally, my mom introduced me to **Char Fitzpatrick's** work. Ever the collector, she always has her finger on the pulse. There wasn't time to commission a piece from Char, but luckily, she has a wondrous catalog to draw upon. She sent a few options, but this painting hit me right away, perfectly suiting **Chasing the Sun**. In her piece, the sun is partially obscured by the clouds, but gives the feeling that it might pop out at any moment. It's lush and loose and I love it.

It should also be said that **Sandrine Lee's photographs** throughout the packaging and book are what give the whole project its frame and port of entry. We wanted to borrow from the classic 50's and 60's covers while also being of today, of the moment. Her gift is true; she finds the beauty in everything.

And I also want to give a shout out to **Burton Yount** whose art direction and ability to closely collaborate with me turned out results that I'm happy with and proud of. His work is as elegant as the gentleman himself.

I hope you wear the book out and enjoy getting a closer view of the music and the people behind it.

Many thanks for listening,

To order additional copies of the Book of Lead Sheets, the CD, *Circle in a Square*, or my other solo projects – **Avalon** and **Hardly Blinking** – follow these links.

Lauren Kinhan	<a href="http://www.laurenkinhan.com">www.laurenkinhan.com</a>
Create Space	<a href="http://www.createspace.com/4580971">www.createspace.com/4580971</a>
CD Baby	<a href="http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/laurenkinhan">www.cdbaby.com/cd/laurenkinhan</a>
Amazon	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
iTunes	<a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/circle-in-a-square/id788705531">itunes.apple.com/us/album/circle-in-a-square/id788705531</a>

## Helpful Links

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Ada Rovatti	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ada-Rovatti/58259718564">www.facebook.com/pages/Ada-Rovatti/58259718564</a>
Andy Ezrin	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/andy.ezrin">www.facebook.com/andy.ezrin</a>
Jiro Yoshida	<a href="http://www.jiroyoshida.com">www.jiroyoshida.com</a>
Peter Eldridge	<a href="http://www.petereldridge.com">www.petereldridge.com</a>
David Kinhan	<a href="http://cannonbeachyogafestival.com/2013/david-kinhan/">cannonbeachyogafestival.com/2013/david-kinhan/</a>
Paul Slifer	<a href="http://redhotandbluetattoo.com/artists-paul.php">redhotandbluetattoo.com/artists-paul.php</a>
Amy Estrin	<a href="http://w9yards.com/paintings.htm">w9yards.com/paintings.htm</a>
Don Frank	<a href="http://www.donfrankphotography.com">www.donfrankphotography.com</a>
Char Fitzpatrick	<a href="http://www.cfai.co/#!char-fitzpatrick/cika">www.cfai.co/#!char-fitzpatrick/cika</a>
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