



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trail Blazing Jazz Quintet - Tony Koch and the AltNews Band Releasing "Groove Rangers"

(Vancouver, BC) October 1, 2020 – With the release of their third album, *Groove Rangers*, Tony Koch and the AltNews Band continue to blaze new and exciting pathways in their ongoing quest to explore and push forward the horizons of ‘all things jazz’. Expressing a deep, poetic lyricism, burning grooves, ultra-hip and hooky neo-bop melodies, along with soaring, heart felt solos, *Groove Rangers* finds The AltNews Band laying down their most poignant offering to date.

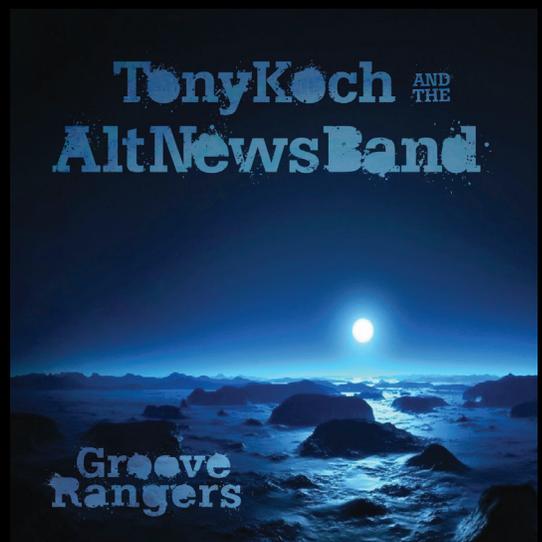
A heady fusion of funk, jazz, bop, swing and latin grooves, surrounded by rich, lush harmonies drawn

from both jazz and classical traditions, provides a welcoming landscape for very memorable melodies that touch the heart with their song-like qualities. The result is a superb collection of tunes that showcase the many diverse strengths of each band member individually and as a collaborative whole.

In describing his compositions, Tony explains, “as we all continue our journey of awakening to who and what we truly are as conscious beings, my intent was to write some tunes with the hope of inspiring the realization that we are all in it together. What affects the one affects the all”.

Groove Rangers, is now available on multiple platforms to download and stream as well as in CD format.

Started in 2016 by guitarist, composer and jazz visionary Tony Koch, the quintet is filled out by producer, engineer and bassist Miles Hill, drummer Bobby Ruggiero, saxophonist Campbell Ryga and renowned Vancouver multi-instrumentalist Miles Black. Members have established their own distinctive voices through decades of innovating, performing and recording, and because Koch carefully lays out each of his compositions with these unique players in mind, The AltNews Band achieves a compelling sweet and savory blend of fresh sounds based on players’ individual strengths.





Tony Koch
Guitar and Synths

Members of the AltNews Band are all accomplished artists and creators with extraordinary backgrounds. **Tony Koch** is a long-time music educator who has played in a wide variety of jazz groups, including Hugh Fraser's Vancouver Ensemble of Jazz Improvisation (VEJI). He has toured the Canadian jazz festival circuit, performing at the Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Victoria, and Halifax Jazz Festivals, as well as many others.



Campbell Ryga
Alto and Soprano Sax

Campbell Ryga has participated in 26 international tours, many of which were with the Hugh Fraser Quintet and VEJI - the Vancouver Ensemble of Jazz Improvisation. Campbell is the recipient of three Juno Awards, two Western Canadian Music awards and a Grammy nomination. He also played on Michael Bublé's Grammy-winning recording "Crazy Love."



Miles Black
Piano, Organ

Miles Black is a well-known composer, writer and performer in the Vancouver jazz scene. He is a part of multiple modern jazz groups and has worked with artists such as Mark Murphy, Slide Hampton, George Coleman, Sheila Jordan, Dee Daniels, Skywalk, Lew Tabackin, Von Freeman and numerous others.



Miles Hill
Bass

Along with mixing the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 Olympic Games, **Miles Hill** has recorded and performed live with artists including Van Morrison, Michael Bublé, Colin James, Brazilian pop sensation Ivan Lins and more and has played on over 600 records ranging from jazz, funk and tango to country and rock.



Bobby Ruggiero
Drums and Percussion

Bobby Ruggiero has over 30 years of professional touring, producing and recording experience as a drummer, vocalist and musical director with credits including Van Morrison, Sam Butera, Beau Brummels, Natalie Cole, Jimmy Smith, Roger Daltry, Tom Jones, Paul Simon, Eric Clapton, Lee Greenwood, Al Hurt and appearances on The Tonight Show.