

For Immediate Release

**The Tremendous Debut of friends To Be Released
Independently By Accomplished Pianist
Dr. Kirk Fischer
On February 20, 2017**

**Kirk Fischer
friends
Produced By Grammy and Emmy Nominee
Trumpeter Greg Adams
Performed By Members of East Bay Soul**



January 17 2017- Austin, Texas. In what is a culmination of a life's journey constantly intertwining with music - a passion that returned with the aptly named CD **friends** by Kirk Fischer. The gathering of 10 songs hand picked by the artist is a mix of original and classic pop songs produced by legendary arranger and trumpeter Greg Adams and founder of East Bay Soul.

What started out to be something for my "used-to-was" box Fischer notes, started with a song concept sent to Greg to take a listen. The reply was "Chart It!" The vision of recording 4 songs just to say he played with some former Tower of Power members and current East Bay Soul horn players like Greg and Lee Thornburg was set in motion. The ideas just started to flow when Greg says. "You have East Bay Soul at your disposal" ... Holy Moly.

The melodic "Friends" title track - infused with a Latin beat with layers of percussion and full orchestra takes the listener to the warmth of swaying palm trees. "Dis 'Sup", the first single penned with Adams - is this True Funk Soldier's response to Greg Adams' "Sup With That." features a driving riff with a wicked drum and bass tracks that provides the backbone for Greg Adams' signature horns and soaring strings.

The ballad rendition of "Kiss on My List" offers sexy smooth keyboards evoking the lyrics you just want to whisper.

"Reach Into Your Heart" fires on all cylinders, strutting with both a swagger and sweeping moments. Dwayne "Smitty" Smith (bass) and Herman Matthews (drums) lay down an addictive groove enhanced by Greg Vail's exquisite sax solo. While the cinematic "Shades of Gray" with it's haunting progression uses acoustic Latin-inspired rhythms under rising strings. Kay-Ta's improvised acoustic guitar solo is a perfect finishing touch.

The cover of Chi Coltrane's "Thunder and Lightning" Fischer admits, "I loved the song the first time I heard it. I revved up the B3, laid down the groove, and got out of the way." With Adams' Mancini-esque sax section arrangement and Vail's driving sax solo is sure to be a go - to cut to take notice of. Fischer creates a texture Greg calls "smoky" on his rendition of Bruce Hornsby's "The Way it is." Adams' orchestral arrangement is enormous-sounding for a familiar, beautiful, respectful, and interestingly different take on this 80's classic.

Adams recalls beginning working with Fischer and bringing in the band. "I think we lifted Kirk up and created an atmosphere that I knew would result in an amazing collection of songs. I am very proud of **friends** and to have worked with such a talented musician"

The final tracks are the ensemble piece "Bast Majority" a nod to a jazz riff that Fischer has carried with him for 40 years "Open the Eyes" is church music brought to smooth jazz. The machine-gun piano riff and blazing horns on "Blame it on Your Own Self" are just pure in- your - face playing. Why not?

Reflecting on his musical journey Fischer adds, "Greg is a great mentor, created lush arrangements, assisted with song development and assembled the best musicians I've ever known. Turning my ideas into a world-class production. The result is **friends**. It is more than I could ever have imagined"

Track listing for **friends**

1. Friends
2. Dis 'Sup
3. Kiss On My List
4. Reach In to Your Heart
5. Shades Of Gray
6. Thunder and Lighting
7. The Way It Is
8. Bast Majority
9. Open The Eyes of My Heart
10. Blame it On Your Own Self

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