

THE GRAND ST. STOMPERS

SWING IN PLACE, Volume 1: Originals

1. PST (Pacific Swing Time)	190 BPM	4:25
2. I Do Believe in You	170 BPM	3:34
3. Bad Cat Rag	186 BPM	3:50
4. Primrose	110 BPM	4:48
5. Jump Out and Getcha	170 BPM	3:58
6. EST (Eastern Swing Time)	205 BPM	3:58

All tracks composed and arranged by Gordon Au (Gordonburi Music / ASCAP)

Molly Ryan: vocals (2)

Gordon Au: trumpet/leader (all)

Dennis Lichtman: alto sax (2)

Matt Koza: soprano sax (1,3-6)

Ricky Alexander: tenor sax (all)

Joe McDonough: trombone (all)

Nick Russo: guitar (all)

Rob Adkins: bass (all)

Kevin Dorn: drums (all)

LINER NOTES

by Gordon Au

Jazz has always been an experimenter's artform. But this case has been more explicit than most—namely: if you start with a group of 9 musicians, take away the music venue, take away the audience, take away the ability of musicians to even be in the same room, and their ability to react to each other in real time, then what are you left with? Can music still be made?

With this EP, we hope you'll agree that the answer is *YES*, though the new form of that music-making takes some getting used to. This was a do-it-yourself learning curve from start to finish: everyone recording themselves with their own equipment, in their own homes, listening to tracks of previous musicians through headphones. The first musician, of course,

played absolutely solo—the musical equivalent of acting a movie scene with yet-to-be-added CG characters. The second musician could hear the first; the third could hear the first two; and so on. There was an aspect of the game of telephone here (maybe a conference call version), with the first and last musicians having quite different experiences. Subsequently came the additional challenge for myself: how to match and smoothly assemble 9 recordings from 9 different microphones in 9 different rooms. In the end, we hope this experimental recording reflects the spirit of the Grand St. Stompers, albeit through the refracting lens of this time of isolation.

But on to the music: These are original compositions we have written and performed in the last few years. It is part of our vision to play originals written in classic styles, as well as to re-interpret old songs in new ways; in addition to faithful re-creations, we believe this is essential to keeping the art form alive and breathing! Here, the bookenders *PST* and *EST* are a pair, reflecting two time zones in which I've lived, written around the same time (but 3 hours apart). The Eastern counterpart is significantly faster—draw from that what conclusions you will. *Bad Cat Rag*, meanwhile, is in honor of a passed-on family member, of the furry sort.

To have these songs reach you, dear listeners, hopefully safely secreted away in your own shelters, is the rest of the experiment I mentioned: with so many of our physical connections, so many aspects of social links sundered, can we still somehow transmit and share our joy, our nostalgia, our sadness, with you?—does music still *work*?

You will have to answer that for us. Here is sending you health and happiness. We miss you dearly, and look forward to the day we can again make music for you in person. Until then, we hope you listen along and SWING IN PLACE.

CREDITS

Produced by Gordon Au (GordonAuMusic.com)

Recorded remotely and independently across the USA in May–July 2020

Edited, mixed, and mastered by Gordon Au

Cover art by Kelsey Ballance

Thanks to the artists above for rising to this challenge and learning together, as well as to other Grand St. Stompers musicians past and present, including Tamar Korn, Matt Musselman, Martina DaSilva, Vinny Raniolo, Rob Garcia, Vanessa Perea, Jay Lepley, Kim Hawkey, and many others. Thank you to Michael Steinman and JAZZ LIVES, All Souls

Bethlehem Church, Vannah Oshun, Kevin McEvoy and Barbara Epstein, Swing Remix, DCLX, Mark Jansen and the Redwood Coast Music Festival, and Ryan Swift and The Track podcast. Finally, thank you to our friends and families, to Kelsey (always), and to everyone who picked up this album, and helped to support these independent musicians through tough times. Keep on swinging in place!...

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