

WAYS & MEANS

JAMES CARNEY GROUP

In 2006 I was commissioned by the Syracuse International Film Festival to score Edward Sloman's *His People*, a silent film released by Universal in 1925. During the festival, my group performed the music live and in synchronization with the projected film in the newly restored Palace Theater. (Two of the compositions from that score, "Power" and "Shame," appear on our 2007 Songlines release *Green-Wood*.) The process was liberating and inspiring because, for the first time while scoring a film project, I was truly left to my own devices, with no conflicting opinions coming from directors, editors, or producers. I was able to combine synthesis and electro-mechanical sounds with orchestral and jazz instrumentation; sound effects as part of the music, rather than separate elements to be mixed later; and multiple music styles — both improvised and through composed. But the one challenging aspect that hadn't changed in the process was the necessity to remain hyperaware of the timings of scenes — and the fact that the musical cues written for those scenes still had to be altered or somehow modified to fit. Afterwards, I dreamed of doing another film that had the same open musical possibilities, but with no restrictions whatsoever.



Before long, the Ways & Means project became a reality, so I conceived it as a virtual film score — not reliant on any images to tell its tale. The overall story is outlined from the compositions, but the plotlines develop through the interpretations and direction of the players, who were allowed the rare opportunity to create music for film while not watching a conductor — or a clock. And since we didn't have to worry about hitting action frames, or somehow squeezing a three minute composition into a 2:45 edit, the music could hold onto its own natural sense of cadence. We could freely play, improvise and, ultimately, tell a cinematic story from the perspective of the musician.

"Gargoyles" was written for Dan Morris, a uniquely gifted friend who performed and recorded with me as a drummer and percussionist for ten years. Dan passed away unexpectedly in December 2007 at the young age of 37, leaving many of us devastated. I'm grateful that I had the chance to collaborate with Dan, and his spirit lives on in my work and that of many others.

James Carney

Brooklyn NY April 2009



Recorded at Brooklyn Recording (Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, NY) on September 11 & 12, 2008.

Engineered by Andy Taub; assistant engineer: Yohei Goto

Mixed by John Raham at Ogre Studios, Vancouver, BC, November 2008

Mastered by Graemme Brown at Zen Mastering, Vancouver

CD cover concept by Ryan Bramwell of Spillt Studio

Design by Jordan Bent

Musician photography by Aurelie Coudriere

Special thanks to Tony Reif and Songlines, Chamber Music America, The Jazz Gallery, Douglass Street Music Collective, Andy Taub and Brooklyn Recording, John Raham and Graemme Brown.

Special thanks to Peter, Ralph, Tony, Josh, Chris and Mark. Extra special thanks and love to Heidi and Phoebe.

www.JAMESCARNEY.net

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| 1. Nefarious Notions | 7:15 |
| 2. Squatters | 13:18 |
| 3. Champion of Honesty | 3:49 |
| 4. Onondaga | 9:48 |
| 5. The Business End | 3:55 |
| 6. Legal Action | 9:09 |
| 7. Fallout | 7:43 |
| 8. Pow Wow | 3:30 |
| 9. Gargoyles | 10:00 |

Ways & Means was commissioned through the generosity of Chamber Music America and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

All compositions and orchestrations by James Carney except tracks 3, 5 and 8, which were freely improvised and are credited to all seven musicians as co-composers.

All tracks published by Dollycastle Music Co., BMI.

Produced by James Carney
Executive producer: Tony Reif



JAMES CARNEY GROUP WAYS&MEANS

SGL SA1500-2

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Peter Epstein, soprano & alto saxophones Ralph Alessi, trumpet
 Tony Malaby, tenor saxophone Josh Roseman, trombone
 James Carney, acoustic & electric pianos, analog synthesizer, glockenspiel
 Chris Lightcap, contrabass Mark Ferber, drums

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| 1. Hefarious Notions | 7:15 |
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| 5. The Business End | 3:55 |
| 6. Legal Action | 9:09 |
| 7. Failout | 7:43 |
| 8. Pow Wow | 3:30 |
| 9. Gargoyles | 10:30 |

Total time: 60:27

Recorded and mixed in 24 bits/88.2K to stereo and 5.0

P & C 2005 Songlines Recordings, 3036 W. 6th Ave., Vancouver BC V6K 1X3, Canada

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