



FOLLOWING TWO RECORDS ON THE TOP 10 JAZZ CHARTS 'TRANSIENT JOURNEY' (2010) AND 'FOR THE PEOPLE' (2012) PHAREZ WHITTED IS SET TO RELEASE HIS NEXT ALBUM 'THE TREE OF LIFE' (2014) ON TRUTH REVOLUTION RECORDS.

FEATURING:

JONATHAN WOOD, EDDIE BAYARD, LOVELL BRADFORD, & GREG ARTRY

Powerhouse trumpeter **Pharez Whitted** continues to showcase his talents on his most adventurous album to date, **The Tree of Life**. Whitted displays "...remarkable command of the trumpet and his broad stroke as a composer, both of which are firmly rooted in the post-bop tradition." With this new CD, Whitted adds a funk and soul element to create an album that is impressively innovative while still steeped in the jazz tradition. He states that **The Tree of Life** is music that is "...not just about the artist but music that is for the people to lift them up."

Many musicians come from musical families, but few can boast of having one as large as Pharez's. Even before he was born his parents, drummer Thomas Whitted Sr. and singing bassist, Virtue Hampton Whitted were members of a jazz orchestra called the Hampton Band. It included Pharez's uncle the legendary trombonist, Slide Hampton. His grandparents regularly invited Indianapolis musicians such as Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery and his brothers Monk and Buddy to practice at their house. Being surrounded by musicians from such a young age, one can only imagine this musical lineage has helped make Pharez a force to be reckoned with.

Joining **Pharez** on **The Tree of Life** is an exceptional group of musicians including, **Jonathan Wood** (bass), **Eddie Bayard** (saxophone), **Lovell Bradford** (piano, organ, Rhodes), and **Greg Artry** (drums). When asked about his band **Pharez** stated "...these guys are extremely creative in their own right. They have a very unique voice on their respective instruments, and a beautiful spirit, which is what drew me to them." Both **Eddie Bayard** and **Greg Artry** played with **Pharez** in his previous band, while **Jonathan Wood** and **Lovell Bradford** bring a new energy and feel to the music. Also joining **Pharez** are special guests **Opal Staples** (vocals), **Dionne Custer Edwards** (poetry), and **John Robinson** (MC).

The Tree of Life is comprised of mostly original compositions and when asked about his compositional concept **Whitted** stated, "For the most part I like to write the music on my projects because I try to maintain a theme or vibe throughout ...one of my biggest goals is to perform music that is excisable to everyday people but still speaks to life and creativity while elevating their mind and spirit to dream and visualize possibilities that they never imagined." **The Tree of Life** is one step closer to achieving that goal. The music on the album will make you move and put a smile on your face.

Kayode, (*Ky--o--day*), the title of the fifth track on **The Tree Of Life**, means “Bringer of Joy” brings a bounce to the album, featuring a trading session between sax, trumpet and piano that eventually builds into a groove that you don’t want to end. The song comes from Yoruba tribe of West Africa and was introduced to **Pharez** by Prince Julius Adeniyi, an African Prince and master drummer. **Kayode** has the ability to make people happy and which is something **Pharez** is able to do throughout the album.

The title track, **The Tree of Life** “represents individuality and oneness, while at the same time showing that we are all different but part of the whole. With the various artists coming together to make this project what it is there was never a loss of individual creativity and spirituality contributing to the final composite of ideas, beliefs and goals that we all wanted to represent.” MC John Robinson soars on this groove with the ease of a Miles Davis. John’s lines dance around like the early bop players of old as they stretched out over changes and passages of creative harmony and rhythmic color always free-louing, never worrying about where they will land.”

Pharez Whitted deeply believes that what this world needs is hope and beauty and he is doing what he can to share both through **The Tree of Life**. Pharez and his music will uplift your spirit, keep you dancing and singing along with this new fresh recording or experiencing him live.

Pharez Whitted ~ Tree of Life ~ Release Date: 12.2.2014

For more information on Pharez Whitted, please visit: www.pharezwhitted.com

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