

# Smoke Sessions Records: August 2014 Release Information

ORRIN EVANS—PIANIST, BANDLEADER AND NOTORIOUS MUSICAL CATALYST—is a bona fide, jazz original. Brimming with music and ideas, Orrin’s *Liberation Blues* debuts one of his most impressive projects yet, a new quintet lineup that includes Sean Jones, JD Allen, Luques Curtis, and Bill Stewart. The recording, made live at Smoke Jazz Club in New York City, occurred immediately following the passing of bassist Dwayne Burno, and the opening selections comprise the “Liberation Blues Suite” dedicated to his memory. Orrin explains, “In my eyes, Burno is now a “Free Man”.... but with that freedom, we’ve lost a great man right here on earth. So, there’s still a blues we feel missing our brother and friend.” Simply put, the playing is inspired. Sean Jones and JD Allen are a brilliant pairing and it is hard to miss Bill Stewart’s presence. Orrin says, “Let me do something that people wouldn’t expect, somethin’ that I wouldn’t even expect. Listen...now is the time for Bill Stewart.” After mining the compositions of Paul Motian, Trudy Pitts, Miles Davis, and, of course, Orrin Evans, the night concludes with a memorable encore visit from Philadelphia vocalist Joanna Pascale for a sultry version of “The Night has a Thousand Eyes.” *Liberation Blues* is available for purchase as an 8-panel CD-Deluxe Album complete with liner notes, interview and additional photos or as a high resolution download mastered for iTunes.



## The Liberation Blues Suite (For Dwayne Burno)

1. Devil Eyes 9:23 (Dwayne Burno)
  2. Juanita 5:37 (Dwayne Burno)
  3. A Lil' D.A.B. a do Ya 5:48 (Orrin Evans)
  4. A Free Man? 6:22 (Donald Brown)
  5. Liberation Blues 5:01 (Orrin Evans)
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6. Simply Green 5:59 (Orrin Evans)
  7. Anysha 6:13 (Trudy Pitts)
  8. Meant to Shine 6:46 (Orrin Evans)
  9. Mumbo Jumbo 7:36 (Paul Motian)
  10. How High the Moon 4:57 (Morgan Lewis / Nancy Hamilton)
  11. The Theme 2:03 (Miles Davis)
  12. Encore: The Night has a Thousand Eyes 6:56 (Jerry Brainin / Buddy Bernier)

Catalog: SSR-1409  
 Artist: Orrin Evans  
 Title: Liberation Blues  
 UPC: 888295108140  
 Street Date: 12 August 2014

Sean Jones, trumpet (except tks 7, 10, 11 & 12)  
 JD Allen, tenor saxophone (except tks 10, 11 & 12)  
 Orrin Evans, piano  
 Luques Curtis, bass  
 Bill Stewart, drums  
 + Joanna Pascale, vocals (trk 12 only)

- Debut live recording of new quintet featuring drummer Bill Stewart and the first collaboration of Sean Jones and JD Allen
- Music dedicated to the memory of bassist Dwayne Burno including the “Liberation Blues Suite” featuring Dwayne’s compositions
- 8-panel Digipak featuring photography by Jimmy Katz
- In depth Interview with Orrin about the band, the music, and the untimely loss of bassist Dwayne Burno

- Press campaign by DL Media; Radio campaign by GROOV Marketing
- Advertising in Downbeat, Jazz Times, Hot House, and New York City Jazz Record
- Tour coordination and support by McKenna Group Productions
- Release events in 2014: Smoke, NYC (8/8 & 8/9); Bohemian Caverns, DC (8/15 & 8/16); Chris’ Jazz Café, Philly (8/22 & 8/23)

## PRESS

“Mr. Evans coaxed his fat, ringing sound out of the piano, occasionally calling up some closely held postbop precedent: the teasing chromaticism of Herbie Hancock, the stark modal thunder of McCoy Tyner. His playing was wily and alert, volatile but grounded, shot through with rough equilibrium. — Nate Chinen, New York Times

“Since moving to New York in the winter of 1995 Orrin Evans has been recognized as one of the most distinctive and inventive pianists of his generation.” — Jazz Times

“I’ve come to realise that this guy is a major contemporary jazz pianist and I can’t believe I’ve missed out on his music for so long.”  
 — Mostly Music

“With a style steeped in tradition, yet pushing forward ever-so-gently, Evans is able to show restraint, while building layers of intensity.” — John Barron, The Jazz Word

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