



Songs From Isolation
Mark Wade (AMP Music)
by Scott Yanow

Mark Wade was self-taught on the electric bass, studied the acoustic bass at New York University with Mike Richmond and has been part of the New York jazz scene for the past 25 years. Along the way he has worked with Jimmy Heath, James Spaulding, Eddie Palmieri, Conrad Herwig, Don Byron and Stacey Kent among others and had previously led two albums of his own: *Event Horizon* and *Moving Day*.

During the pandemic, Wade spent his time wisely, coming up with the *Songs From Isolation* project, which features him via overdubbing on two or three acoustic basses and an electric bass. An EP with five selections (four originals plus Bob Dorough's "Nothing Like You"), *Songs From Isolation* also includes a music video for each of the songs.

The opening "Hours Till Dawn" has Wade playing the medium-tempo jazz waltz on a soloing acoustic bass, a rhythmic electric bass and also a second acoustic bass played arco. The video alternates between showing him on each of the basses.

"Intents And Purposes" starts with electric bass ringing out harmonics and, in an atmospheric section, interacting with bowed bass. The piece becomes a swinging strut that gets cooking with Wade trading off between his basses. The film was made in purposely dark rooms and puts the focus on his various basses.

"A Conspiracy Of Lemurs" is catchy and witty. This has the most adventurous video with Wade at first looking at his phone and seeing himself playing bass. Using trick photography, one sees him walking around his neighborhood while watching the performance and often there are two or three of him, both as a spectator and as a player. "Blues In Isolation" has more basic video and is a groove with three acoustic basses (one bowed) jamming over a pattern.

The final piece, "Nothing Like You", finds Wade joined by his wife Teri Leggio Wade, who does a fine job of singing the dissonant melody and Dorough's lyrics. In the film, there are an impressive number of costume changes (at least six) that take place quickly; the editing is excellent while the music is continuous. Wade's three basses include one hit percussively.

This is a fun project with Wade's versatile bass playing always holding one's interest.

For more information, visit markwademusicny.com. Wade live-streams Dec. 20th at youtube.com/user/FlushingTownHall/live.