



KASSA OVERALL

BIO

On “Go Get Ice Cream and Listen To Jazz”, Kassa Overall’s first album as a bandleader, the acclaimed drummer/producer is stepping into a familiar minefield. Since hip-hop’s birth, its relationship to jazz has been as much a story of cultural continuity and the foundation- building of the ‘Next’, as of unrequited love, generational misgivings and missed opportunities...The 36 year-old Overall is no legend or novice, nor keen on conservative readings of the two musics or their union....The fluid way that ‘Playlist’ moves from piano-trio softness to FlyLo-like sample moves, all without radicalizing the song’s narrative, perfectly underpins the essence of Overall’s vision. In his hands, the minefield is a natural playground. – Afropunk

Kassa Overall is, as Time Out New York puts it, “a Renaissance man: part chopsy, super-funky jazz drummer, part beatmaking producer and a more than capable MC to boot.” While percussion is his main focus, Overall has a passion for electronic-based production and often incorporates the use of laptops and samplers into his music. He’s collaborated with a formidable list of artists, including Vijay Iyer, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Francis & the Lights, Yoko Ono, Marc Ribot, Mayer Hawthorne, Ravi Coltrane, Gary Bartz, and many more. He spent five years as a key member of pianist Geri Allen’s Timeline band and around a decade with trumpeter Theo Croker, whose album *Escape Velocity* he co-produced. As a rapper and producer, Overall has collaborated with Das Racist and the duo Peaceful Solutions with Kool A.D. In 2017, he was a DJ on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert’s house band, Jon Batiste & Stay Human. Aside from his own work, Kassa currently works as a spoken word and laptop artist with Terri Lyne Carrington’s Social Science; plays drums with Carmen Lundy, and plays drums and produces for No Wave pioneer Arto Lindsay.

PRESS

“Kassa Overall’s new album — the irreverently titled ‘Go Get Ice Cream and Listen to Jazz’ — attests to the diverse musical identity of this drummer, producer and rapper. It’s one of the few genuine-sounding, full-scope amalgams of contemporary hip-hop and jazz to surface in recent years.”

— Giovanni Russonello, The New York Times

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