

## Grammy Nominated Pianist, Composer, Arranger, Film & TV Scorer, David Benoit, Kicks Off A New Adventure With Full Big Band on *Timeless* Out May 10<sup>th</sup> on SRG Jazz

Contemporary Jazz Legend Collaborates With UK Big Band, Spice Fusion, Along With Superstar Guest, Brian McKnight, On First Big Band Album!

The iconic pianist, composer, arranger, producer, film and TV scorer David Benoit, is a founding father of Contemporary Jazz, rooted in the tradition of Bill Evans and Dave Brubeck. Always one to break boundaries, Benoit has never been one to stay with one formula or style. He has consistently pushed the envelope, always drawing from his influences, which include jazz, film, comics, Broadway, symphonies and more. His fans love his magical soundtracks for the *Peanuts* television movies to garnering over 20 chart-topping radio hits and scoring music for films produced by Clint Eastwood, Sally Field and many others. His collaborations with such diverse artists as The Rippingtons, Faith Hill, David Sanborn, Marc Antoine and CeCe Winans have brought accolades from press and fans alike. His orchestra work with the Pacific Vision Youth Symphony (the orchestra he founded in 2001), the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philippine Philharmonic are legendary. And now, in the spirit of that collaborative drive, David teams up with the super hot, and energetic big band from London, *Spice Fusion*. After having been a guest of this amazing group in concert in London, they formed a friendship that led to an amazing new recording.

*Timeless* is a collection of tracks recorded live in the studio in Surrey, England in August, 2023. Taking some of his favorite songs from the past like “Drive Time” and “Fuzzy Logic” along with new originals, the band and David smoked through his own arrangements and those of big band heavy weights, Mike Tomaro, Doug Beach and a version of a classic Buddy Rich chart on “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy” composed by Joe Zawinal and arranged by Phil Wilson. The Spice Fusion band leader, Simon Niblock and engineer, Chris Traves did an audiophile worthy job recording this amazing ensemble.

Timeless also includes two smaller group recordings done in Los Angeles with a 10 piece horn section consisting of flugelhorns, trombones, bass trombone, flutes and clarinets. These musicians, along with David's touring rhythm section, Dan Schnelle on drums and Roberto Vally on bass, created a sonic ride, totally unique and distinctive. On one of these two selections, "The Surest Things Can Change", composed by Gino Vanelli and arranged by Benoit, vocalist Brian McKnight performs a mesmerizing take. The other of these two tracks, "Savannah Dream", composed by SRG Jazz president, Claude Villani and arranged by Benoit, is the first single released from the album.

David Benoit has come a long way from his formative years in the South Bay of Los Angeles. Always up for something new, he's found a whole new adventure with *Timeless!*