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## **JAZZ PIANIST-COMPOSER RAMONA BORTHWICK RELEASES HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW CD 'ONE OF US', NOVEMBER 2009**

*Watertown, MA November 9, 2009:* **'ONE OF US'** is Boston-based pianist Ramona Borthwick's newest CD release as a leader, and the successor to her well-received debut *'A New Leaf'*. With a depth that stretches beyond her previous work, it showcases her evolution as an artist and composer. The ten original compositions feature Ramona's distinctive multi-textural writing, piano playing and vocal styles. Stellar performances from trumpet player Ingrid Jensen, guitarist Noel Borthwick, bassist Johannes Weidenmueller and drummer Adam Cruz abound, making this 'concept' album a rewarding listener experience.

A gifted composer, Ramona's music conveys a story like quality, spiritual depth, infectious energy and cliché free intuitive flow. While rooted in the jazz tradition, her compositions often draw from her other musical influences such as ECM and classical music, Brazilian jazz and her legacy from India. Artfully crafted with frequent thematic changes and sometimes funky hooks, the compositions retain their lyrical quality while giving the band ample room to flex their chops on.

There are no filler tunes here – the songs have a way of taking unexpected turns and, on occasion, reinventing themselves entirely. *"Who's Your Mama"*, the powerful opener heralds with a sparse pentatonic theme followed by a sumptuous interplay of instruments and counter melodies, then morphs into a burlesque-style coda. Most of Ramona's writing on this CD is through composed, and the harmonically lush *"Chinese Whispers"* is no exception. "While composing, I use voice to balance the yin and yang between harmonic complexity and melodic simplicity, so it was natural to use voice as a second wind instrument" says Ramona. *"Listening To Love"*, with its syncopated intro leads into a relaxed swinging vehicle for the soloists. The deeply moving title track *"One Of Us"* exudes calm and a spiritual quality, drawing the listener into a sphere of introspection. "The music on this album pays homage to our wonderful planet, recognizing the hard truth that we bear the responsibility to be protectors of Earth's bounties. I couldn't have chosen a better tune to represent the concept 'ONE OF US'" says Ramona. The tongue-in-cheek *"Resident Alien"* unravels a lattice of angular harmonies and discord that blends into modal solos. *"Gaia"*, a luxuriant waltz with its meditative eastern tinged intro, is followed by the imaginative, ECM reminiscent *"Eight Winds"*. Playful and at times mischievous, *"Garden Of The Gods"* revels in chromaticism and vivid colors, displaying fantastical symbolism and swirling shapes. The dramatic *"Retrospeak"* shares a sense of déjà vu as past and present coalesce with melodies layered in contrapuntal, canonic styles. The CD's curtain call is the sunny, Brazilian inspired *"Rio Alegre"*. A buoyant tune embodying optimism and hope, it is a fitting finale to the album.

A brilliant, cohesive album, ONE OF US radiates Ramona's irrepressible spirit that invites the listener to explore its multi dimensional canvas, the beauty of which grows stronger with every listen.

Produced by Noel Borthwick, and recorded, mixed and mastered in high definition audiophile format at 24 bit/96 KHz resolution, the production captures every nuance of the performances making it a treat for audiophile listeners.

**ARTIST BIO, REVIEWS, PRESSKIT & MORE:** [WWW.RAMONABORTHWICK.COM](http://WWW.RAMONABORTHWICK.COM)

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