

# Kairos 4tet



Photos by Tom Barnes

## **Neame/Waldann/Scott/Høiby**

***... Spellbinding instrumentals that blend high-calibre jazz improvisation with accessible melodies...a scintillating new opus***

MOJO \*\*\*\*

Kairos is an ancient Greek word meaning the right or opportune moment – the supreme moment. Kairos 4Tet was born out of a desire to explore times past, present and future, creating music with a sense of space, between the competing worlds of written melody and in-the-moment improvisation.

Fronted by saxophonist and composer Adam Waldmann, **Kairos 4tet are one of a kind – bridging the gap between classic and contemporary; the jazz idiom and the lineage of song; intelligent and delicate grooves, burning improvisations and melodies** that linger long after the music stops. **With Waldmann**, a graceful player, described as “**one of the most distinctive saxophonists in the UK**” (Manchester Evening News) on breathy tenor and quirky soprano, **bassist Jasper Høiby’s muscular low ends** (Phronesis, Shai Maestro), **Ivo Neame’s dazzling piano** (Cinematic Orchestra, Marius Neset) **and Jon Scott’s hypnotic drumming** (Mulatu Astatke, Dice Factory) the quartet allow the warmth of their communal spirit and of the now improvisational edge to shine through. A former student of Julian Arguelles and Yuri Honing, Adam has worked with the likes of Alicia Keys, Arctic Monkeys, Mark Ronson, Mark Guiliana, Alan Hampton, Paloma Faith, to name a few. In 2010 Adam Waldmann made the leap to band leader and released Kairos 4tet’s debut: Kairos Moment, an album that marked him out as “a powerful new voice in British jazz” (BBC), “a precociously talented composer and player” (All About Jazz) and as a “young master in the making” (Time Out). In 2011, their second release, Statement of Intent was voted no. 2 in MOJO Magazine’s albums of the year and led to the MOBO Award for Best Jazz Act.

Their third album **Everything We Hold**, and first outing on the renowned Naim Jazz label, takes Kairos in a new and unexpected direction. In a bid to push the boundaries of his own creativity Waldmann explores in great depth

the art of song, paying homage to some of the relationships he holds dearest. Social and political concerns remain a strong influence and The 99 suite that frames the album in recognition of The Occupy movement, serves as a reminder of connectivity and kinship on a wider scale. Stand out vocals come courtesy of Swedish chanteuse Emilia Mårtensson, acclaimed neo-soul icon Omar (who first met the band at the 2011 MOBO Awards), and husky voiced, emerging Irish singer-songwriter Marc O'Reilly. Their vocal talents appear in unlikely and exciting new contexts, incorporated seamlessly into the quartet's unique sound world, whilst adding another intriguing dimension. Extending this further is producer/arranger extraordinaire Jules Buckley (Anthony and the Johnsons, Michael Kiwanuka), the founder-conductor of the Heritage Orchestra, and principal conductor with Holland's Metropole Orchestra. With the addition of strings, harp, harmonium, bass clarinet, glockenspiel and French horn, their sonic landscape is deeper and richer than ever before.

**Please note** that the line-up might be extended to a quintet with guest singer **Emilia Mårtensson** and at times **Sam Lasserson** may replace Jasper on double bass.

***(The Sage, Gateshead) Essentially an English melodist who slots into a lineage that includes Surman, Sulzmann, Argüelles and Ballamy, Waldmann also comes with one or two unique selling points of his own. His frame of reference naturally encompasses the ubiquitous influence of Coltrane and the wistful impressionism Garbarek's great quartets with Jarrett and Stenson, but a canny knack for tapping in to today's beats and grooves gives his music a distinctive and thoroughly contemporary edge...Yet unlike many ensembles with crossover potential, I sense very little compromise within the music of Kairos...their presence on stage was little short of magnetic***

Jazz Journal

***Bursting with dreamy, hummable melodic themes... this is easily Waldmann's best to date...hangs together beautifully in the way albums were always meant to***

Jazzwise magazine

***ferociously inventive foursome...Wayne Shorter-influenced blend of wild improvisation and sonorous grooves***

The Independent

**Watch the videos:**

Song For The Open Road  
(featuring Omar)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFcAPYjyZEI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFcAPYjyZEI)

Everything We Hold (Album Documentary)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O\\_TE7JlvAI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O_TE7JlvAI)

**Listen to the music here:**

<https://soundcloud.com/kairos4tet>

***Waldmann's sensitivity to jazz dynamics and potential for improve remains sharp, as is his own sax-playing...*** The Guardian

