

Marcus Strickland Announces New Album *People of the Sun* out 11/9 via Blue Note/Revive Music

[Listen to the first track “Timing”](#)

Upcoming Record Release Shows at Jazz Standard
in NYC on 11/10 and 11/11

On November 9th, Brooklyn composer-saxophonist **Marcus Strickland** will release his thrilling new LP [People of the Sun](#) via Blue Note/Revive Music. The first track "[Timing](#)" is out today, which pairs Mitch Henry's shimmering organ with an astral trap beat. Kyle Miles' low end burbling along with Charles Haynes' rapid-fire snaps and pops gives us a drum 'n' bass-evoking jolt. Strickland's blowing glides over the bustling scene, which is fitting since he was imagining "being a black superhero, soaring through the air trying to save my people."

Listen to the track here: <https://MarcusStricklandUS.Ink.to/Timing>

When last we heard from Strickland on 2016's *Nihil Novi*, he was experimenting with hip-hop-inspired production, blending genres with a little help from album producer Meshell Ndegeocello. In the process, something big happened: "I was no longer concerned about what is or isn't jazz," he says. "I got rid of those barriers and was like, 'Well, who the fuck am I?' That's when I started on this path."

On *People of the Sun*, Strickland blazes down that trail fully at the helm of his music—performing, writing, and producing with his outrageously able Twi-Life band on deck—even as he sonically and socially traces the African diaspora from present to past in an effort to unpack his identity. "I'm thinking about where we came from," says Strickland, "and how that clashes and goes hand in hand with what we've created here as Black Americans." The result is an album that's busy and beautiful, inventive and contemplative, an amalgam of influences from West Africa (griot culture, Afrobeat, percussion) and America (post-bop, funk-soul, beat music) performed in the key of revelation. Another facet that sets the album part is Strickland's lesser-known woodwind obsession with the bass clarinet, which adds its noirish hues to so many of these songs.

Growing up in Miami, Strickland always thought of music "in a very mixed up way." He heard Haitian sounds, Afro-Cuban rhythms, and southern rap in the streets, while at home his dad

would jump from Stevie to Coltrane to P-Funk on his reel-to-reel deck. Meanwhile, his mom put Marcus and his twin brother E.J. into art school so they'd be surrounded by proper "music nerds." The talent they nurtured there on saxophone and drums (respectively) propelled the pair on to The New School at just the right time: college was basically one wild jam session with like minded upstarts like Robert Glasper, Keyon Harrold, and Bilal Oliver—guys who'd go on to remake jazz (and more) in their own post-modern musical image. To hear *People of the Sun*, that backdrop feels more like fate than chance.

Marcus will play four record release shows on November 10th and 11th at Jazz Standard in NYC, featuring special guests. More information is available at www.jazzstandard.com.

The tracklisting for *People of the Sun* is as follows:

1. Lullaby feat. Weedie Braimah
2. Timing
3. People Of The Sun feat. Mitch Henry
4. On My Mind feat. Bilal, Pharoahe Monch, and Greg Tate
5. Relentlessness
6. Marvelous feat. Akie Bermiss
7. Black Love
8. Build
9. Cloaked In Controversy
10. Aim High feat. Jermaine Holmes
11. Spirit Of The Music

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