

## ESP-Disk' announces plan for 2024 release of *It's Now: R\*time Plays Doug Hammond*

Generations meet on a planned ESP-Disk' album scheduled for 2024 release. Doug Hammond, beloved of 1970s jazz aficionados, Jean-Paul Bourelly, who made his mark in the 1980s, and Reut Regev, a mainstay of the 2000s NYC scene, are about to give us *It's Now: R\*time Plays Doug Hammond*, where Hammond collaborates with Regev's band R\*Time featuring Bourelly on a program of Hammond's compositions.

As Howard Mandel's liner notes for the release say, "Reut Regev is a boundary-crossing composer-trombonist born in Israel, living and active in New York City and its metroplex since 1998, noted for four previous albums with drummer and co-leader Igal Foni (her husband), three featuring the quartet R\*time, the last two co-starring electric guitarist Jean-Paul Bourelly. ... In the course of her twenty-five-year career, she's delved deeply into salsa and klezmer, engaged with the demanding scores of omni-dimensional Anthony Braxton and the spontaneous "Conductions" of Lawrence Douglas "Butch" Morris, been a member of downtowner Elliot Sharp's hardcore band and Monika Herzig's Sheroes. Regev has a burly yet graceful style, conveying warmth and strength with good humor and melodic lyricism. Her leads and obligati provide ideal counterpoint to Hammond's understated vocalizing."

Mandel further writes, "Hammond's sixty-year career, begun with bluesman Earl Hooker and the R&B duo Sam & Dave, comprises more than a dozen albums under his own leadership starting with *Reflections in the Sea of Nurnen* from 1975, on which he played melodica and ARP synthesizer as well as drumming, crooning, and directing an octet. Independence, originality, fundamental tunefulness, and a spirit of inquiry characterize those *Reflections* as well as his subsequent releases, which include an anthology spotlighting hometown colleagues and first recordings of singer Angela Bofill (*Doug Hammond Special*), Steve Coleman's nascent M-Base (*Spaces*), through-compositions for flute, piano, and cello (*Pictures and Hues*), trios with trumpet and bass (*May Be Blue* and *Singing Smiles*), an ambitious, eponymous (*Tentette*), live solo "griot" shows (*Be You*), old and new homies (*It's Born* with reedsman Wendell Harrison and violinist Regina Carter). He's had professional associations with Smokey Robinson, Sonny Rollins, and Charles Mingus (who recorded "Moves," heard here with lyrics, as an album title track), among others."

R\*Time's other members—guitarist Bourelly, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Igal Foni (Regev's husband) —support Hammond's vision and vocals with playing and arrangements that honor the spirit of Hammond's great songs while bringing them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "Doug's compositions are *songs*," Regev emphasizes, "poetic, with a unique rhythm and melodic structure. They come first from the drums, then the melody and harmony from voice or keyboard. He had a pretty clear image of what he wanted while being open to our suggestions and opinions. At times he demonstrated the roots, claves, and vibes of the tunes on the drums. Then, Igal was on his own to use that and integrate it into his own style."

Aiming for a late Spring release on CD and vinyl, ESP will be sending advance downloads in January and CDs well in advance of the release. And yet, even though we know how busy everyone is with wrapping up 2023 now, with a release this important that will appeal to a broad range of jazz fans and beyond, we wanted to get you all thinking about it now.



L-R: Eric Revis, Doug Hammond, Reut Regev