The Royal Bopsters

LONG BIOGRAPHY

New York's Royal Bopsters, formed in 2012, bring a new and refreshing approach to the art of vocal jazz. Vocalists Amy London, Jeanne O'Connor, Tyler Bassett and Dylan Pramuk pay tribute to their jazz heroes thru intricate harmonies and energetic delivery, bringing jazz classics and bebop style to the next generation and beyond. The Bopsters delve deeply into vocal improvisation and vocalese, the art of penning lyrics to instrumental jazz solos. Their original songs and arrangements further the tradition of modern jazz, vocal bebop and the blues.

The Royal Bopsters were formed when vocal jazz legend Mark Murphy agreed to sing at a 2011 concert at the New School, and the group was created to sing with him. What ensued were invitations to their four other vocal bop heroes, and the opportunity to record together.

Their debut recording, *The Royal Bopsters Project*, (Motema, 2015), features Mark Murphy and NEA Jazz Masters Annie Ross, Jon Hendricks, Sheila Jordan and Bob Dorough, garnering accolades from Down Beat Magazine (4.5 stars), Jazz Times (top 2015 releases), All About Jazz (top picks) and The New York Times (weekend picks,) as well as rave reviews from Europe and the UK. The Royal Bopsters soon began performing at major festivals and notable clubs across the US and Europe.

Their sophomore release, *Party of Four*, (Motema, 2020), displays the group's stunning facility to swing deeply and sing passionately while navigating incredibly precise four part harmony. The Album is dedicated to founding member, alto Bopster Holli Ross, who sadly passed away in the late Spring of 2020.

Cited as 'expert practitioners of vocalese' in The New Yorker, The Royal Bopsters' performances are masterclasses in the art of vocal jazz and vocalese, demonstrating dazzling possibilities created when four voices come together as one. NEA Jazz Master, the late Sheila Jordan, who recorded on both Bopsters' albums, and was considered the reigning Queen Matriarch of Vocal Bop, commented "The Bopsters are my favorite vocal group." The love was mutual, as The Bopsters featured Sheila in many of their live shows, including Birdland and The Newport Jazz Festival.

Amy London, Jeanne O'Connor, Tyler Bassett and Dylan Pramuk are all renowned jazz educators, and collectively they instruct at the entire gamut of excellent jazz programs in the NYC area: The New School (London was a founder of the program,) NYU, Montclair State University and Bard College (Pramuk,) City College, (Bassett,) Hofstra University, and Jazz House Kids (London and Pramuk created the JHK renowned vocal academy in 2013.)

The tenor on The Royal Bopsters Project is Darmon Meader, leader of the New York Voices, and the tenor on Party of Four is Pete McGuinness, a Grammy nominated arranger and full time faculty at William Paterson University Jazz Department. They both contributed lush vocal arrangements to their respective recordings with The Bopsters. Former tenor Danny Backer, who tragically passed away suddenly at a young age, was only with The Bopsters for a short time.

The Royal Bopsters not only teach individually at renowned jazz institutions, but are very busy vocal faculty at summer jazz camps in the US, Canada and internationally. The group's vast knowledge in the history and technique of the vocal jazz art form shines through on every note.