



**BLACK TOP PRESENTS:
HAMID DRAKE/ELAINE
MITCHENER/WILLIAM
PARKER/ORPHY
ROBINSON/PAT THOMAS
Some Good News**

Label

OTOROKU

Format

2CD

Catalog Number

ROKU 025CD

EAN

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Store Price

\$12.39

Release Date

03/19/21

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - B - JAZZ

OTOROKU

DESCRIPTION

Double-CD documenting the magic meeting of one of the all-time great rhythm sections in jazz: percussionist **Hamid Drake** and bassist **William Parker**, with London's brilliant **Black Top (Orphy Robinson and Pat Thomas)** and **Elaine Mitchener**. Across two sets the quintet are infectiously energetic and inspired, striding from synchronized heavy groove to star bright solos, whilst incorporating dub effects, guembri, and sumptuous blues piano playing. Formed by Orphy Robinson and Pat Thomas but always realized with an ever-changing number of invited musicians, Black Top's blend of lo-fi samples, dub effects and experimental electronics has been daring free improvisation since 2011. Their virtuoso performances draw on their Afro-Caribbean roots with delicious spontaneity and humor; the histories of Ridley Road Market, the LIO and Islamic West Africa are sounded out side by side on iPad, marimba and vibraphone. Having met in 2006, Black Top played with bassist William Parker and drummer Hamid Drake as part of their residency at Cafe OTO in 2016; forming a quartet grounded in transatlantic kinship but which looked outward to the Caribbean, calypso music and Saharan Gnawa rhythms. When Parker and Drake returned to OTO in 2019 Black Top reformed again, but this time with the brilliant addition of vocalist Elaine Mitchener. Over the last few years, the clarity with which Mitchener has explored vocal expression in the global Black Avant Garde has been stunning, but here the range in her influences is manifest, moving effortlessly between phonetic and poetic experimentation and spoken word, all the while at ease with soul soaked jazz and dissonant free fall. A hand drum duet with Hamid Drake astonishes before being laced perfectly with cosmic theremin and Parker's fantastic acid shehnai. Recorded live at Cafe OTO on Sunday July 28th 2019 by **Paul Skinner** and mixed and mastered by **James Dunn**. Photos by **Dawid Laskowski** and artwork by **Oliver Pitt**.

TRACKLISTING

- 1.01. Put the Brakes On (50:08)
- 2.01. Some Good News (56:43)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Double-CD documenting the magic meeting of one of the all-time great rhythm sections in jazz: percussionist **Hamid Drake** and bassist **William Parker**, with London's brilliant **Black Top (Orphy Robinson and Pat Thomas)** and **Elaine Mitchener**.
- Two energetic and inspired sets, striding from synchronized heavy groove to star bright solos, whilst incorporating dub effects, guembri, and sumptuous blues piano playing.
- Recorded live at Cafe OTO on Sunday July 28th 2019 by **Paul Skinner** and mixed and mastered by **James Dunn**.
- Photos by **Dawid Laskowski** and artwork by **Oliver Pitt**.

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