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For Immediate Release:

*“Brooklyn jazz is happening and those who venture across the bridge will be delighted by the hard-edged ethnically-flavored jazz that they find on the other side.”* **– All About Jazz New York**

*“ . . . The spirit of the organization is firmly rooted in Brooklyn. All of the members reside there, and they wanted to give a nod to the vitality of its scene.” –* **The Wall Street Journal**

**BROOKLYN JAZZ UNDERGROUND RECORDS**

**To Release New Recordings From:**

**BROOKLYN JAZZ UNDERGROUND, NOAH GARABEDIAN & RAFAL SARNECKI**

**Available on August 26, 2014**

**Brooklyn Jazz Underground Records,** which was launched in January of 2008, and now boasts a catalog of more than forty-five recordings, is poised to release the newest wave of recordings on the label; ***7 X 7***, the second recording from **Brooklyn Jazz Underground**; the debut album, ***Big Butter and The Eggmen***, from **bassist/composer Noah Garabedian;** and ***Cat's Dream***, the third album from Poland-born, Brooklyn-based **guitarist/composer Rafal Sarnecki**.

**With a mix of new and returning artists releasing albums on BJURecords this year**, including new recordings from **Tom Guarna**, **Rob Garcia, John Chin, Gianni Gagliardi,** and label co-founder, **Anne Mette Iversen**, **the label continues to represent current streams of jazz, creative and improvised music from artists connected to Brooklyn.** The fall will see new releases from Owen Howard, Nathan Parker Smith Large Ensemble and the artist collective, Sketches. As always, the label has taken a hands-off approach, adhering to their core principles of artist control & ownership, and giving priority to the artist's vision. BJURecords proudly offers the listener the newest recordings in the catalog, all singular, and linked by being contemporary explorations and representations of 21st century jazz from Brooklyn, NY.

**BROOKLYN JAZZ UNDERGROUND - *7 X 7***

"They've united to share their skills and see where their discrete chemistry might take them. Turns out it's a place both provocative and pretty." "Some beautifully crafted and passionately played music"

**- Jim Macnie, John Corbett, *DownBeat Magazine* (Hot Box Review, Editor's Pick)**

"The CD is full of great tracks showcasing the diverse writing and playing styles of five of the top bandleaders on the Brooklyn scene. Listening to these musicians interpret one another’s tunes make it clear that these unique artists are more than capable of supporting all of their individual idiosyncrasies as a cohesive group."

- **Ron Netsky, *The Rochester City Paper***

In 2011 the members of the BJU (formed in 2006) composed new music for their first collaborative effort, the recording, *A Portrait of Brooklyn*. These performances marked the first time that the BJU members came together as an ensemble, and the result was praised unanimously, with Hank Shteamer of *Time Out New York* calling the BJU Ensemble, "a valuable collective that spotlights underrated local bandleaders", and Chris Smith adding in *The Winnipeg Free Press* that, "Brooklyn has a thriving jazz community, and an association of artists committed to building a greater awareness of original music coming from there - the Brooklyn Jazz Underground."

From its inception the BJU, a highly influential group that inspired the formation of other artist collectives around the world, including The Paris Jazz Underground, The Queens Jazz Overground and The LA Jazz Collective, has always placed a premium on original composition. The band’s much-anticipated second recording, ***7 X 7***, offers a collection of seven compelling works conceived by each member of the septet, featuring David Smith (trumpet), Adam Kolker (tenor sax, bass clarinet), Anne Mette Iversen (bass), Rob Garcia (drums), and also featuring the addition of vocalist Tammy Scheffer, who plays a shifting role here as a vocalist and as a third "horn", pianist David Cook & drummer Owen Howard, empowering the ensemble alongside Rob Garcia with a dual drummer thrust.

While each piece exemplifies the character of the individual composer, the ensemble devised a cohesive element to lend unity to the entire recording: "The Shorty," a brief composition derived from each of the seven original works. The creative twist was that these variations were to be composed by a fellow BJU artist. "We literally drew names from a hat to pick which composition was to be our 'assignment.' Whether inspired by a melodic phrase, a harmonic structure or simply the vibe of the initial work, each 'Shorty' in turn, found its own character," explained Owen Howard (from the liner notes).

**Noah Garabedian - *Big Butter and The Eggmen***

"Noah is a positively organic bass player, an incredible artist . . ."

- **David Wiegand, *The San Francisco Chronicle***

In demand sideman, bassist/composer **Noah Garabedian**, who has worked with the likes of Ravi Coltrane, Josh Roseman, Ralph Alessi, Andrew D'Angelo, Myron Walden, Nir Felder, Julian Waterfall Pollack and The Amigos Band, **is happy to announce his debut recording as a leader,** ***Big Butter And The Egg Men***, featuring his sextet of the same name.

The instrumentation of Garabedian's band was inspired by a prolonged Louis Armstrong phase, coupled with the bassist listening extensively to Henry Threadgill's bands Zooid, and Very Very Circus (several of the tracks on the album also reveal Garabedian's love for Bach, and Baroque music in general). He elaborated, "I wanted to create a band where the musicians could all comp for each other, without a traditional chordal instrument, and having a band that can potentially go from being an entire sextet improvising together, to a small duo or trio, was a very exciting prospect for me." Garabedian aimed to compose music that provide a spring board for the improvisers, and that would have a more natural transition between the composed passages and the improvised sections. He explains, "rather than writing in a conventional jazz structures (such as the blues, or AABA forms, etc), I wanted to experiment with several different melodies in a piece, different improvising sections throughout the composition, and a variety of textures within each song."

The Big Butter And the Egg Men Sextet, featuring Garabedian on bass with Kyle Wilson (tenor sax), Anna Webber (tenor sax), Curtis MacDonald (alto sax), Kenny Warren (trumpet) and Evan Hughes (drums), is made up of musicians who are also friends who have been making music together for a long time. Just to cite one example, Garabedian, now based in Brooklyn, and drummer Evan Hughes (both from Berkeley, CA) have known each other since they were teenagers. "Having that band quality is very important to me, especially in an age where so few steady working bands exist. The trust I have in the musicians is something that I value greatly; not only can I rely on them to perform my music at a high level, but I also welcome their input while we are work-shopping new compositions," said Garabedian.

**Rafal Sarnecki - *Cat's Dream***

"Like Rosenwinkel, Sarnecki ventures far beyond the bebop and post-bop idioms of the past and into a freer - though still chordal - musical language. Sarnecki's original compositions merge the high-flown lyricism of Polish culture with an idiosyncratic, thoroughly disarming way of building long and winding musical phrases. He's clearly at the start of forming an improvisational syntax for himself, but it already shows originality and daring . . ."

- **Howard Reich, The Chicago Tribune**

***Cat's Dream* is the third album from guitarist/composer Rafal Sarnecki, born and raised in Warsaw, Poland, and now based in Brooklyn, NY.** The album was recorded in Brooklyn by Michael Perez-Cisneros (known for recording such albums as Kurt Rosenwinkel's Heartcore and Gilad Hekselman's This Just In). **The mix was done by Dave Darlington at Bass Hit Recording (Darlington is known for mixing such famous albums as *If On a Winter Night...* by Sting, *Alegria* by Wayne Shorter, for which Darlington received a Grammy Award, and *Gershwin's World* by Herbie Hancock).**

***Cat's Dream* features eight new compositions from Sarnecki, arranged for a sextet comprised of some of the best and brightest young musicians on the NYC Scene**, Lucas Pino (tenor sax, bass clarinet, flute), Glenn Zaleski (piano), Rick Rosato (bass), Colin Stranahan (drums) and Bogna Kicinska (voice). *Cat's Dream* also marks Sarnecki's first album recorded with American musicians, and the first time he composed for voice. Sarnecki elaborated; "I wrote the music specifically for these musicians, and during the composition process I imagined every musician in the group performing the music and tried to hear how the parts would sound. We have all known each other for many years so I was able to feature their unique abilities and strengths within this music. I definitely felt very privileged to be able to record with such incredible musicians."

Each composition on *Cat's Dream* represents a different period in Sarnecki's life, and also a different stage of his development as a composer. On the album you can find extended forms ("For Anastazja" or "Plane Crashes and Conspiracy Theories"), typical short form jazz songs ("Ordovician Extinction", "Piazza Verdi"), as well as the first song with lyrics the composer has ever written (the title track, albeit in Spanish, "Sueño de Gatos"). Sarnecki's music is a result of being influenced by both traditional Polish songs, and American music he was exposed to on radio and in American films. Sarnecki explains further, "many American musicians consider my compositions very European in style, while in Poland and in the rest of Europe, my music is often described as very American. I like my music to have an American rhythmic character, and feel that introducing European melodic elements doesn't necessarily have to make the music groove less."

Sarnecki's music is fascinating in that many musicians perceive his compositions as being complex and challenging to perform (perhaps due to Sarnecki having a degree in Physics). However, the composer actually strives to make his music as user-friendly as possible, only using odd-meters if he is absolutely certain that it is necessary, for example. "Nevertheless the music on *Cat's Dream* is challenging to perform even for myself. I am really amazed by the ability of my bandmates to improvise with incredible freedom and expression over the complex metric structures of these songs," said Sarnecki.

**BJURecords CD Release Celebrations:**

**The Eighth Annual Brooklyn Jazz Underground Festival - August 12 & 14:**

**August 12 @ Smalls, NYC**

7:30 PM - David Smith Quintet

8:35 PM - Anne Mette Iversen Quartet

*(Appearance is hot on the heels of Iversen's latest BJUR CD, So Many Roads)*

9:40 PM - Adam Kolker Quartet, 10:45 PM - David Cook Quintet, 11:50 PM - Owen Howard's Drum Lore

**August 14 @ Shapeshifter Lab, Brooklyn, NY**

Presenting bandleaders Tammy Scheffer and Rob Garcia’s groups,

PLUS, the CD Release Celebration for the new BJU Ensemble CD, *7 X 7*

7:00 PM - Tammy Scheffer Sextet

8:15 PM - Rob Garcia 4 (performing music from his latest BJUR recording, *The Passion of Color*)

9:30 PM - The BJU Ensemble Celebrating The Release of *7 X 7*

**Rafal Sarnecki:**

**August 21 @ Bar Next Door, NYC**

**September 2 @ Twins, Washington, D.C.**

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**Please Visit:** [**www.BJURecords.com**](http://www.BJURecords.com)

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