

# W W **HAT LILY** W W

## **HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO + LILY STRING QUARTET**



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# HAT LILY

## HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO + LILY STRING QUARTET

*Unexpectedly great music from unexpected places!*

An apt description of one of Western Canada's more unique musical collaborations. Fusing the sensibilities of jazz and classical music, comes two award winning ensembles in their genres; The Hutchinson Andrew Trio (jazz) and The Lily String Quartet (classical). Their shows seamlessly blend jazz music infused with pop sensibilities with the lyrical sounds only a string quartet can generate.

Led by bassist and CKUA Radio host Kodi Hutchinson, the Hutchinson Andrew Trio (HAT) and Lily String Quartet (Lily), or HAT Lily have an engaging and entertaining presentation style that has been rapidly captivating audiences in Western Canada. Supported by composer, piano virtuoso and one of Canada's rising jazz talents; Chris Andrew, this seven piece ensemble has been steadily converting audiences to their special brand of Prairie jazz.

In addition to performing some unique arrangements of classic jazz standards, HAT Lily draws upon the inspiration of their surroundings. Their music is a reflection of the vast array of musical and personal influences growing up in Canada's Prairies. The new album represents the harmony, beauty, energy and excitement of the modern Canadian West.

The full seven piece ensemble will be releasing their new album Hollow Trees in February 2016.

### THE ENSEMBLES:



**THE HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO (HAT)** is a unique voice on the Canadian jazz scene. Over the past 8 years this acoustic piano based trio has been bringing their own Western Canadian sound, mixing contemporary swing, latin, and acoustic groove, to the Canadian jazz landscape. Comprised of bassist Kodi Hutchinson, CBC Galaxie Rising Star pianist Chris Andrew, and Canadian jazz star Karl Schwonik on drums, the trio is a 3-time Western Canadian Music Awards nominee for outstanding jazz recording. A regular fixture on the Canadian jazz scene, HAT performs regularly to enthusiastic crowds across Canada. They have performed at a number of Canadian Jazz Festivals including Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Ottawa, and they won the prestigious 2013 TD Grand Jazz Award from the Montréal International Jazz Festival.



**LILY STRING QUARTET (LILY)** is a dynamic chamber ensemble dedicated to excellence. This Canadian quartet was formed in 2005, and is recognized by audiences and critics alike as a top ensemble of Western Canada. This bilingual quartet is comprised of Elisa Milner, Diane Lane, Patricia Higgins and Andrea Case, all of who hold a position in the top tier of Canadian chamber musicians. Whether from the Alberta prairies, the city life of Calgary, or the beauty of Québec City, these women have brought together their varied experiences to produce a unified and tantalizing sound. The group has shared this sound across Western Canada numerous times since 2008. With the members of Lily String Quartet having individually trained at North America's premiere universities and conservatories, they have a wealth of knowledge and experience that enriches the quartet.



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"Prairie Modern is a terrific listen, with great musicianship throughout...The Hutchinson Andrew Trio offers a distinct musical vision from one of the many great music scenes in Canada."

*Frank Alkyer – Downbeat Magazine*

"[Prairie Modern] transfixes. Surpassing beauty. Absolutely absorbing. Makes me sit still and just listen."

*Lark Clark, Host – Ballads & Blue Notes – CKUA Radio*

"As cohesive a unit as you'll find on Prairie Modern. A remarkable journey through a very thoughtful all-original set of music."

*Cory Weeds - Cellar Café & Cellar Live Records*

"Thought provoking and evocative...[Prairie Modern] grips and doesn't let go."

*Pierre-Jean Lavigne – Galaxie Digital Radio, Producer – Jazz Stations*

"...they're riding the leading edge of Canadian jazz ensembles, and on par with the best from around the world in playing chops, tight intuitive ensemble and memorable tunes."

*Lyle Rebbeck - Medicine Hat Jazz Festival*

"jazz that evokes wide-open spaces and a gentle but vital energy, created with a smart, contemporary approach.... Prairie Modern is a transcendent tribute to one's origins from three exceptional players."

*Roger Levesque - Edmonton Journal*

"Hutchinson Andrew Trio [engages] in a freewheeling, expansive, and spirited three-way musical dialogue... Prairie Modern, raises the stakes considerably and the results richly reward those who take the time to eavesdrop."

*David Ward, Producer – Tonic - CBC Radio 2*

There has been lots of hum after your show...all positive. I think my favorite story so far is about a gentleman who said he wasn't [initially] a jazz fan but bought your CD because he thought you guys are 'rising stars'."

*Dianne Irvine – Presenter - Sundre Arts Centre, AB*

**Discography** **Web:** [www.kodihutchinson.com](http://www.kodihutchinson.com); [www.chronojazz.com](http://www.chronojazz.com); [www.chronographrecords.com/hat](http://www.chronographrecords.com/hat) (EPK)



### Hollow Trees

2016 - CR 048  
Chronograph Records  
Feat. Lily String Quartet



### Prairie Modern

2013 - CR 034  
Chronograph Records  
Feat. Donny McCaslin (sax)  
& Rogério Boccato (perc.)



### Music Box

2008 - CR 014  
Chronograph Records  
2008 WCMA Nominee



### Lost But Not Forgotten

2005 - CR 001  
Chronograph Records  
2006 WCMA Nominee

## Music available at:

iTunes, CD Baby, Outside Distribution, &  
[www.chronojazz.com](http://www.chronojazz.com)

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NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE OF DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE



Still enjoying the afterglow of winning the prestigious TD Grand Jazz Award at this year's Festival International de Jazz de Montreal, the members of the Hutchinson Andrew Trio are contemplating their next move. Bassist Kodi Hutchinson and drummer Karl Schwonik are on a Skype connection from Calgary, Alberta, and pianist Chris Andrew is on a dodgy cell phone line from further north, in Edmonton. There are plans for work with a string quartet, and a 2014 European tour is being discussed. All are aware that the award, in place since 1982, has helped propel the careers of musicians like David Virelles and John Stetch.

"New uniforms would be nice," deadpans Schwonik, the joker among them. "I hear lederhosen are very hip right now."

The trio, which also goes by the acronym HAT, is a band that has succeeded so far without being overly concerned with what is hip. Although each member has toured widely, HAT is resolutely centered in Alberta, which—the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music aside—is not exactly a hotbed of jazz.

"We play in a lot of places where no jazz group has ever played," says Hutchinson. "We go to a lot of rural gigs, and have performed in more than 200 schools."

Schwonik grew up on a farm near Gwynne. "For me, Calgary is a big city," he says. He's being a bit disingenuous, given that he's studied in New York City, but his point is taken: These guys are quite happy living out of the jazz mainstream.

"Work-life balance is important to all of us," he says. "There's definitely a more relaxed atmosphere here. People are nice here." There's a beat and then he continues: "So we try not to be too nice in our music."

While the trio's music is suffused with the kind of pastoral space that reflects the geography of western Canada's prairies and foothills, Schwonik's drumming and the taut lines of Andrew's compositions bristle with energy.

Andrew says that pushing boundaries lies at the root of the band's existence. "When we started as a trio [in 2005, with Schwonik's former teacher, Sandro Dominelli, in the drum chair], it was because I really wanted to push myself creatively and challenge myself to be up front in a piano trio."

The concept clicked immediately for Hutchinson. "I was a big fan of Ray Brown from the Oscar Peterson Trio, and I loved Chris' writing. The music really came together quickly, and I loved the openness of working in this setting."

After collaborating with Dominelli on 2005's *Lost But Not Forgotten* and 2008's *Music Box* (both on Chronograph), the drummer decided to concentrate on his teaching at Edmonton's Grant MacEwan University, and the trio took two years off. During the hiatus, Andrew and Hutchinson found themselves working in Schwonik's band.

"When we thought about reforming HAT, there was no question that Karl was our first choice to replace Sandro," says Hutchinson. "He's a very athletic drummer, and bringing him on board really changed our sound."

When it came time to record HAT's third album, *Prairie Modern* (Chronograph), Schwonik made a recommendation that changed their sound even more.

Hutchinson recalls, "The music Chris had written just really seemed to suggest adding a saxophone as a fourth element, and Karl recommended asking Donny McCaslin, who he'd met while he was in New York."

"Their music and concept was very open," McCaslin wrote in an email. "I was impressed with the level of musicality and expression they all brought to the plate."

On six of the new album's 13 tracks, McCaslin adds his highly expressive voice, soaring above the band like a hawk on the contemplative "Mountain Rose" and driving the trio forward with a forceful, time-stretching solo on "Waltz For Clay."

"We were looking for someone to really push us and provide us with some creative growth," says Andrew.

"It's weird," says Schwonik, "but when I listened back to the album a couple of months after we were in the studio, Donny's playing made the songs sound like they are faster than they actually are, just because of the energy he brought to them."

Now, with *Prairie Modern* attracting positive reviews and the Montreal victory beginning to draw offers of work well beyond rural schools in Alberta, the trio is considering its future.

"We're excited about the possibilities," says Hutchinson. "But, mostly, we're excited our future is in our control."

—James Hule



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JULY 2013

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**HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO**  
**PRAIRIE MODERN**

With Special Guests Donny McCaslin & Rogério Boccato

BY FRANK ALKYER

**Hutchinson Andrew Trio, *Prairie Modern*** (Chronograph)

Music journalists often speak of the "Canadian Scene," as if it were one singular sound or movement. That's far from true. Montreal has its own flavor; Toronto and Vancouver, too. In fact, the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia have produced a number of jazz stars with strikingly different approaches. And that's just scratching the surface. The Hutchinson

Andrew Trio is proof positive of the wide-ranging, genre-bending artistry happening north of the border. Hailing from Alberta, bassist Kodi Hutchinson, pianist Chris Andrew and drummer Karl Schwonik make music that beautifully reflects the mountains, valleys and expansive prairies of western Canada. "Mountain Rose," the first track on the trio's new album, *Prairie Modern*, delivers a sense of peace, painting a lovely sound picture of vast landscapes and space. On this tune, saxophonist Donny McCaslin (who guests on six cuts) quickly slips out of his New York City-tough skin and into the gliding vibe of the trio. "Wilds" eases into laid-back, semi-Middle Eastern themes with Andrew playing simple, powerful lines and progressions. Hutchinson lays down a serious, lock-down groove for Andrew to float through, nimbly switching from pizzicato to bowing throughout. And Schwonik, too, locks in yet still colors the tune with an active imagination and serious technique. The trio demonstrates how easily this Canadian country vibe can translate into a Latin groove on "Mintaka" and "Ponderado," with percussionist Rogério Boccato joining in. *Prairie Modern* is a terrific listen, with great musicianship throughout the set of 13 original songs. The Hutchinson Andrew Trio offers a distinct musical vision from one of the many great music scenes in Canada.

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Music for

**Week L**



# Jazz trio tunes into spirit of Prairie roots

**HAT launches  
its new CD  
Friday night**

## PREVIEW

**Hutchinson Andrew Trio**  
With: Lily String Quartet  
**Where:** Yardbird Suite  
**When:** Friday, 9 p.m.  
**Tickets:** \$18 members, \$22 guests, from Ticketmaster or at the door (1-855-985-5000 or [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca))

ROGER LEVESQUE  
*Edmonton Journal*

You've probably heard that old maxim for novelists, to "write what you know."

Bassist Kodi Hutchinson and pianist Chris Andrew followed similar sentiments in crafting their latest jazz trio recording *Prairie Modern*. The album is resplendent with tunes and atmospheres that evoke the Prairies, which is, after all, where Calgary's Hutchinson and Edmonton's Andrew grew up.

"It was an attempt to reflect that Prairie upbringing and the beauty of the Prairies in the music," Hutchinson explains.

He notes that jazz musicians often tend to make music geared to match the vibe of urban living, and argues that there's room for wider inspiration.

"We don't often embrace where we come from when we're trying to portray ourselves to the outside world. I wanted this album to proudly say, 'This is where we're from, this is what we are, and this is what our music is about.'"

Whether you pick up on it from track titles like *The Realm*, *Prairie Wind*, *Wilds*, or *Beautiful Thorn*, or from the pastoral spirit of the music itself, this is jazz that evokes wide-open spaces and a gentle but vital energy, created with



Hutchinson Andrew Trio — from left, Karl Schwonik, Chris Andrew and Kodi Hutchinson — debut *Prairie Modern* at the Yardbird Friday.

a smart, contemporary approach. From the gentle, insistent piano pulse of the opening moments, *Prairie Modern* is a transcendent tribute to one's origins from three exceptional players and their guests.

It's been just over eight years now since the Hutchinson Andrew Trio (HAT) was born as an occasional collaboration between two of Alberta's busiest jazz players. Drummer Sandro Dominelli kept them company through the first six years or so and two notable albums, *Lost But Not Forgotten* (2004) and *Music Box* (2008). For the new disc they pulled in another

busy Prairie son, drummer Karl Schwonik (raised near Wetaskiwin, currently based in Calgary).

"Chris and I had toured with Karl's projects about five times over the past three years so we spent a lot of time on the bandstand. Just about every time we play together Karl manages to throw a curve ball at me, and a lot of people have mentioned that we seem to have a psychic connection going on when we tend to turn left or right in sync."

It was Schwonik who helped the trio connect with much-in-demand New York saxophonist

Donny McCaslin, who adds extra sizzle to six tracks on the album. Brazilian percussionist Rogerio Bocatto also guests on three tunes, including *Mintaka*, one of several Latin grooves inspired by Andrew's past experience with bands like Bomba!

Andrew wrote most of the 13 original tunes, adding a short solo piano coda to the end. As the chief melodic player in the trio he puts in more of the gorgeous playing that fans now expect from this CBC *Galaxie Rising Star* Award Winner. All three trio members exhibit a level of expertise gained from

supporting some of the top touring names to hit Alberta, when they aren't leading or co-leading projects of their own. The trio has also competed for the *Galaxie Award* at the Montreal International Jazz Festival and garnered WCMA nominations for both of their previous albums.

Given the *Prairie* theme, it's a little ironic that the album was recorded at Systems Two Studios in Brooklyn, N.Y. over several days last September. Hutchinson explains that doing it there made it much easier to finagle McCaslin's participation and he argues there's

much to be said for getting outside of your comfort zone, literally. A grant from the Alberta Foundation For The Arts also helped facilitate things.

As it happens, HAT is just one of several facets to the bassist's musical career. All three HAT albums have come out on Hutchinson's Calgary-based Chronograph Records. Since its start in 2004, the indie label has put out 34 releases, mostly featuring western Canadian jazz artists, though recent discs from the country-folk oriented groups Pear and 100 Mile House reflect his interest in gradually expanding that mandate.

Whatever the music style, Chronograph displays a pretty consistent level of sonic quality, impressive packaging and marketing too; probably a reflection of the fact that Hutchinson was a university business major before he chose to devote his life to making music. He started out on electric bass before he took up the acoustic in high school.

Chronograph is a family affair too. The new HAT tune *Mountain Rose* was penned for Stephanie Rose Hutchinson, the label's savvy general manager and Kodi's wife.

Finally, it's been nearly a year now that Hutchinson has been hosting CKUA Radio's Saturday noon program *A Time For Jazz*. In meeting that challenge, he puts in a lot more "conscious listening" to a wider variety of artists than he had previously and he admits the broadcasting experience must have some sort of subtle effect on his own music.

HAT's trio date at the Yardbird Friday will also feature Calgary's Lily String Quartet (Karl Schwonik's wife Andrea Case is cellist leader of the group).

Roughly half the show will involve a collaboration between the trio and quartet with charts arranged by Andrew. Hutchinson is already looking forward to the two groups recording together.

**HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO + LILY STRING QUARTET**

