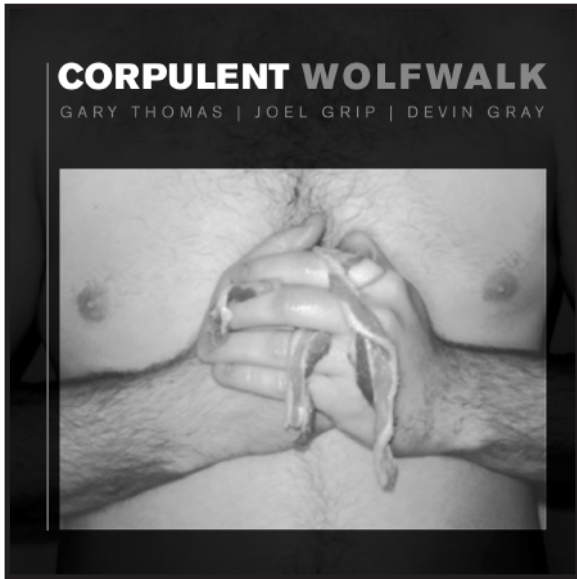


# CORPULENT

# "WOLFWALK" CD



## CORPULENT WOLFWALK

Cat#: UMCD-0001

Format: CD

Barcode#: 6 13285 94392 6

Price: \$7.99 distro / \$8.49 store

Street Date: 7/05/05



### TRACK LISTING:

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Gryphus Medley   | 5) Ingen Dalig Kappa Att Axlá |
| 2) Slow Business    | 6) Used to Be (V-D)           |
| 3) Who's in Control | 7) Vanishing Time             |
| 4) Free Piece       |                               |

### SELLING POINTS:

- Gary Thomas is an internationally known and highly respected saxophonist. His discography numbers more than ninety recordings, many of which are with some of the biggest names in Jazz, including **Miles Davis**, **Herbie Hancock**, and **Pat Metheny**.
- Thomas came to prominence while a member of the **Miles Davis Band** and was also a vital member of Jack DeJohnette's **Special Edition** where he played alongside fellow saxophonist Greg Osby.
- In addition to national accolades Corpulent has received by virtue of Gary Thomas' participation, the group has received great praise and invitations to perform from the **High Zero Festival**, perhaps Maryland's most prominent new conglomerate of avant garde improvisational musicians.
- This CD will receive full press mailing to major Jazz publications.
- The dynamic student/professor interaction between Joel Grip and Gary Thomas on this CD provides a rare insight into the working relationships of student musicians with their mentors at the prestigious **Peabody Institute**.
- Plans to perform the album live at a handful of eminent venues to be announced.

### OVERVIEW:

With the upcoming release of their debut recording, *Wolfwalk*, **Corpulent** is quickly rising to prominence as they continue to bring shape to their distinct and captivating musical voice. The trio – featuring celebrated jazz musician and Baltimore native **Gary Thomas** on tenor sax, Swedish bassist **Joel Grip**, and accomplished Maine drummer **Devin Gray** – unifies the vast palette created by the varying experiences each member brings to the table, forming a single common sound, clear and directed in musical ideas and expressions.

Thomas is a veteran saxophonist, a world renowned tenor with a discography of glittering accomplishments, including recordings with **Miles Davis**, **Jack DeJohnette**, **John McLaughlin**, **Dennis Chambers**, **Pat Metheny**, **Terri Lyne Carrington**, **Randy Brecker**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Wallace Roney**, **Geri Allen**, **Dave Holland**, **Joe Lovano**, **Charlie Haden**, and **Cassandra Wilson**. Various with Wayne Shorter, Sonny Rollins, and Joe Henderson, the sound of Gary's sax is grainy, sinewy, and hard-edged. An uncompromising musical stance and open-eared approach to all forms of contemporary music — his albums incorporate rap, standards, dance grooves and synthesized electronics — mark him as very much his own man.

Thomas has made a series of recordings as a leader for Enja, JMT and the newly founded Winter & Winter label. Most recently he toured with the **Herbie Hancock Quartet**. He is presently the director of the Jazz Studies degree program at the prestigious **Peabody Conservatory of Music** at the **Johns Hopkins University** in Baltimore, MD. In this directorial role, he has been afforded the luxury of performing or recording with the best and brightest up and coming musicians in the genre, and made the conscious choice to perform with one of the school's most talented students, Joel Grip.

Originally from Stockholm, Sweden, Joel Grip transplanted himself into the environs of the United States in 2003 to enroll in the graduate studies program at *Peabody Conservatory of Music* under the master tutelage of Michael Formanek. In May he'll receive his Graduate Performance Diploma. Grip has been on the board of *FRIM*, the *Organization for Free Improvised Music* in Sweden, for the last three years.

Gary also handpicked another young up'n'comer Devin Gray, whose fresh approach to modern drumming has enabled him to play with many of America's great modern jazz musicians. Besides having performed on some of Gary Thomas' past solo work, he's also recorded with various innovative musicians of contrasting styles and backgrounds—including Tony Malaby, Ingrid Jensen, Sam Barsh, Dave Ballou, Michael Formanek, George Garzone, Mark Feldman, Sam Rivers, Ted Rosenthal, Vardan Ovsopian and Bill McHenry.

The music of Corpulent is dark and lyrical, reminiscent of some early free jazz, though assimilated with a very modern approach to improvisation, which is key to their unique sound. The obvious understanding of freedom between the performers allows for lengthy improvisations that move anywhere from free interplay in "broken-time" to driving backbeat groove, as well as delicately sparse playing in otherwise wide open space, and everything in between. With so much motion to their music, the group generates a veritable power plant of energy with every engagement. Each moment is exhilarating and worthy unto itself.



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