



**PIECES OF A DREAM
CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY, 21ST ALBUM *ALL IN* &
PROMISE THAT THE DREAM CONTINUES...**

The Buzz on Pieces Of A Dream

“...Pioneers of smooth jazz.” – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“..Satisfying variety of styles and moods.” – *JazzTimes Magazine*

“The Philly ensemble hasn't abandoned their polished sound...”- *The Washington Post*

Once upon a time, a trio of teenage jazz prodigies began turning heads in Philadelphia. Hailing from the ‘City of Brotherly Love,’ the all-star unit Pieces Of A Dream stands alongside an impressive lineage of musical wonders who have made Philly proud including Gamble and Huff, Patti Labelle, Grover Washington Jr. Jill Scott and The Roots. Proclaimed a “tough act to follow” by the iconic Count Basie, Pieces Of A Dream was discovered while in High School and was mentored by Mr. Magic, pioneering saxophonist Grover Washington, Jr. 2016 marks a milestone for Pieces Of A Dream as they will celebrate their 40th Anniversary. The all-star band has built an impressive legacy of their own with their melting pot of influences that have catapulted them to the top of the charts more than a few times. The band’s newest release is their 21st recording, *All In* on Shanachie Entertainment, which beautifully illustrates why the band has stood the test of time. They made their label debut in 2013 with their CD *In the Moment*.

Founding members James Lloyd (keyboards) and Curtis Harmon (drums) both use words like “thankful,” “blessed” and “grateful” to describe how they feel about their career longevity and their fans, who have continued to make it all possible. Curtis confesses, “Not many groups get to reach 40 years and 21 albums! I feel very fortunate and blessed to be in the music industry this long and to have this kind of success.” James adds, “That’s crazy isn’t it?! Twenty-one albums and the first one came out in 1981 when I was a senior in high school, 16 years old. We were out on the road with Grover Washington, Jr. the following year and I basically grew up on the road with him. We would open for him as Pieces and then play as part of his rhythm section.”

And Grover Washington, Jr. was indeed their guiding light, a mentor who took Pieces of a Dream under his wing as the first group he signed with his brand new production company. James and Curtis were the nucleus of the band, having played together as members of the Ada Lewis Middle School jazz ensemble along with former member bassist Cedric Napoleon. Danny Harmon, Curtis’ father and a jazz musician himself, became their manager and had the guys listening to the Modern Jazz Quartet, Ahmad Jamal and Oscar Peterson as they developed their unique sound, blending their jazz roots with R&B, soul and funk. Pieces released three albums in quick succession, establishing its place in the world of smooth jazz with the CDs *Pieces Of A Dream* (1981), *We Are One* (1982) and *Imagine This* (1983). Those albums include some of their biggest early hits, including “Warm Weather,” “Mount Airy Groove” and “Fo Fi Fo.” *In The Moment* was Pieces of A Dream’s first new release for Pieces since the 2009 album *Soul Intent* and featured eleven tracks, ten originals and a cover of the 1942 Harry Warren/Mack Gordon jazz standard “There Will Never Be Another You.”

The new single on *All In* is the title track and a favorite of Harmon’s. “‘All In,’ is one of those songs that was years in the making but that shows off our true funk ability.” Harmon also wrote album standouts “Caribbean Nights” and “UP Til Dawn.” Pianist James Lloyd states, “There is something for everyone on this album.

'Human Interface' delivers an energetic old-school feel reminiscent of the late great George Duke, while 'Dream On' is more of a sensual number and "Watch Your Step" is a grooving number for all the steppers out there!" Pieces Of A Dream enlists a little help from some friends on *All In* and is joined by Grammy nominated producer and keyboardist Chris "Big Dog" Davis (Kim Burrell, Maysa and George Clinton) and keyboardist Herman Jackson (*American Idol*, Aretha Franklin, Babyface, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder). Long time member and acclaimed bassist David Dyson (Meshell Ndegeocello, Lalah Hathaway, New Kids on the Block, Michael Franks), noted guitarist Rohn Lawrence (Will Downing, Boney James, Najee) and up and coming saxophonist Tony Watson Jr. also join the band to make a stellar ensemble.

Danny Weiss, VP of Jazz A&R for Shanachie states, "What really amazes me about Pieces Of A Dream is how fresh they are. They've been an iconic group for decades, yet this album has them at the very top of their game!"

Celebrating 40 years making music is no small feat and both James and Curtis are looking forward to sharing the new material with their fans. Curtis sums it up like this, "I think we made a good collage of music on *All In*. I think we're covering a lot of different flavors in this particular CD and a lot of people will be pleased." James adds, "I hope our fans like the album. For me personally, I'm always trying to push the boundaries of what's accepted as cool or playable. I'm not one to say 'ok that worked, let's do that again,' but rather 'that worked well and let's do something else.' It's a hard line to walk, staying true to what people expect of you but being true to yourself and your creativity." With *All In*, it's safe to say Pieces of a Dream continue to explore new territory yet remain aware of their amazing history and the core sound and style that have gotten the band this far. Pieces fans will definitely enjoy this 'moment' and the ride.

For more information please contact Monifa Brown (973) 579-7763 EXT 26/mbrown@shanachie.com