

# The Arboreal Quartet

Self-titled debut CD – AQ082609  
Independent (arborealquartet.com)  
Release Date: 21 December, 2009

Instrumental music featuring the sarod. Emphasis on melody and improvisation in a variety of rhythms and moods, drawing from jazz, folk/roots, and North Indian Classical music. You might compare the album's mood to Harry Manx, Kelly Joe Phelps, Bill Frisell's roots sound, aspects of Béla Fleck's acoustic work, or Ry Cooder & Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. The CD was recorded live in one studio session.

- 1) **Theme** (2:20) A short melodic introduction, no improv
- 2) **Lucky** (4:38) Introduces the raagini (drone). Bass, guitar and sarod each take a lead
- 3) **Shift** (3:39) Melody interspersed with guitar/sarod interplay
- 4) **Mountain** (3:49) Guitar introduction into swing with alternating leads
- 5) **Dang** (4:37) Sarod intro; upbeat melody with Celtic/European trad. influence
- 6) **Cycle** (3:31) Minimalist construction, no improv, upbeat
- 7) **Snap** (5:57) Reggae influence, esp. Ernest Ranglin
- 8) **Upswing** (3:43) A ballad
- 9) **Asleep** (3:46) Upbeat, straight-ahead groove
- 10) **Dee** (4:28) The conclusion. Sarod introduction, guitar and sarod leads

**The Arboreal Quartet**, from Montreal, was founded by multi-instrumentalist **John Wrinch Williams**. John's rich musical background includes formal training in Hindustani music in India and in California, jazz instruction in Toronto, apprenticeships in traditional music in Ontario and Quebec, teaching, and much experience in performance and composition for a variety of instruments and ensembles.

On upright bass, **JF Martins**, born in Schefferville, Quebec, is a multi-instrumentalist himself and brings a melodic touch to the instrument. Drummer **Fernando Gelso**, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a member of the Franco Proietti Morph-tet along with JF. On acoustic guitar, **Tom Eliosoff** is very active in the Montreal jazz scene, performing with the **Chet Doxas Quartet** and **Eric Thibodeau**, teaching, and hosting jazz nights at Grumpy's and Upstairs in Montreal.

At turns contemplative and celebratory, the Arboreal Quartet's music is multi-layered. "The music I love is music that I live with. It accompanies all aspects of my life, and it's mostly instrumental," John says. "My favorite artists produce music that rewards you according to the level of attention that you give to it, but that also sets a mood that does not necessarily demand your undivided attention. There's a balance there."

"It's unbelievable the different musical influences that (John) manages to make shine in this quartet's music."

- Laurie Brown, the Signal, CBC Radio 2

"Their mix of harmonies created a completely relaxed atmosphere where the crowd was entranced."

- Shannon Gibara, montrealmusicscene.com

"Beautiful stuff!" - Dave Fisher, CJAD Montreal

Suggested tracks: **07-Snap**, **05-Dang**, **02-Lucky**, **04-Mountain**

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