

## Regional News

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George Creative.

## Improvisation amplified

by **Madelaine Empson**

Aotearoa artist Dave Wilson's new avant-garde jazz album *Ephemeral* amplifies the many dimensions of improvisational, collaborative music making. Playing tenor saxophone and bass clarinet, Wilson was joined by an improvising ensemble of trumpet, guitar, bass, drums, and string quartet to create nine multilayered tracks that take listeners on a journey of ephemerality in all its shapes, forms, and intricate textures.

Out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December with Thelonious Records, Wilson describes *Ephemeral* as the most personal of his artistic projects to date, and therefore the most vulnerable.

“The music on the record attempts to encapsulate feelings, moments, and relationships that are present in life for brief moments and seasons, and that are difficult to describe in words – childhood, loss, grief, family, connections to other species, the joy that can emerge after a relationship ends, and more”, Wilson says. “My hope is that the music and the stories behind it can connect listeners to others in their life in

ways that are full of understanding and love.”

To celebrate the upcoming release, Wilson will perform two very special concerts at the Newtown Community Centre Theatre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at 4:15pm and 7:15pm with “some of Aotearoa’s leading musicians in jazz, indie rock and pop, and classical music (NZSO, NZSQ)”.

Featuring Wilson alongside Ben Hunt (trumpet), Callum Allardice (guitar), Chris Beernink (bass), Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa (drums), Amy Brookman (violin), Monique Lapins (violin), Nicholas Hancox (viola), and Benny Sneyd-Utting (cello), each performance will present a unique version of the album material, which ranges from high-energy grooves and happy tunes to meditative drones and intense improvisations.

The performances will be accompanied by live visuals from Rachel Nesor, “an incredible motion designer and visual artist who designs digital systems that respond to sound in real time through moving images projected onto a screen”, Wilson explains.

Additionally, the events will feature readings of the poetry that inspired the compositions.

“This is the first time the project will be presented in its full multi-dimensional form integrating live improvisation, visuals, and literature.”