

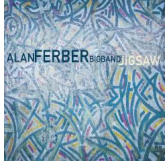
## Alan Ferber Big Band - Jigsaw (2017)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 20 January 2018 14:09 -

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1. *Impulso* 07:47 2. *She Won't Look Back* 09:40 3. *Jigsaw* 09:59 4. *North Rampart* 07:23  
5. *Get Sassy* 08:40 6. *Lost In The Hours* 07:38 7. *Late Bloomer* 06:57 Saxophone - John O'Gallagher, Rob Wilkerson, John Ellis, Jason Rigby, Chris Cheek Trumpet - Tony Kadleck, Scott Wendholt, Alex Norris, Clay Jenkins Trombone - Alan Ferber, John Fedchock, Jacob Garchik, Jennifer Wharton Guitar - Anthony Wilson Piano, Keyboards - David Cook Bass - Matt Pavolka Drums - Mark Ferber Percussion - Rogerio Boccato

There are many reasons why organizing a big band can lead many bandleaders to question their sanity. Despite the challenges, it has become the flagship large ensemble in jazz and a vehicle for countless compositions throughout the years. There is one important element of the modern big band that can help explain its staying power: community.

In the capacity of instilling community, trombonist/composer/arranger Alan Ferber is doing major infrastructure work in the field of music. The Grammy Award nominee leads an acclaimed big band, writes and arranges for numerous international ensembles, performs and records with a "who's who" of big band luminaries, and provides scores and seminars to many student and amateur ensembles, spreading the word of large ensembles to welcoming ears.

Ferber's new recording *Jigsaw* provides ample proof that his good work is paying off. Taking material that he has lived with, either performing with his ensembles or with those led by others, Ferber revisits and re-arranges the pieces to give what he feels are the songs' best representations. Picking originals or pieces by his peers, Ferber has generated arrangements that evolved on the bandstand, informed by the response of bandmates and audiences.

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Ferber has led his big band over the past six years; it is made up of players who are not afraid to be expressive, whether in a big band or small ensemble setting. They have to be comfortable playing lyrically and melodically as well as be acute listeners who are willing to interact and feel time together. To accomplish this, Ferber assembled musicians of stylistically diverse backgrounds. In his trombone section alone there is a veteran of the Woody Herman Big Band and one of Kronos Quartet's in-house composers.

One of the luxuries of playing in or leading a band is connecting to audiences and fellow musicians. Ferber has experienced this with his ensembles and as a sideman in other groups. The program for Jigsaw comes from pieces that he felt really connected with listeners and participants over the past 10 years or so. All of the arrangements are new and function to serve the music, providing the best example of what these revisited pieces can be.

Alan Ferber is providing a service that all music lovers can appreciate. He brings a sense of community by providing unifying, satisfying music and a perfect vehicle for its dissemination, the Alan Ferber Big Band. Jigsaw is an especially moving example of music with heart.

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