

For immediate release

## KEVIN HEARN ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM *THERE AND THEN: SOLO PIANO IMPROVISATIONS*

Stream Focus Track “L’ou” [Here](#)

TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 11, 2022



Album Artwork by [Willo Downie](#) | Download [here](#)

(December 9, 2021 - Toronto, ON) – Acclaimed pianist and composer **Kevin Hearn** announces that he will release a new album on **February 11, 2022** titled, ***There and Then: Solo Piano Improvisations***. The album is a collaboration between Hearn and decorated producer and engineer **Mark Howard** whose credits include career-defining recordings by Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris, and The Tragically Hip. Each day, Howard would inform Kevin where and when the piano would be ready, and then the album came to life. **Stream the song “L’ou” [Here](#).**

Says Hearn, “This musical meditation, ‘L’ou’, is one of two pieces on the record that I vocalized on. I slowly repeated ‘ooh’ as I improvised on the piano. With haunting beauty, it sustained and floated in the natural reverb of the Cathedral I performed in. While assigning the song a title, I realized that “Ooh” sounded a lot like ‘Lou’ and it became a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to my friend and musical hero [Lou Reed] so I called the piece ‘L’ou”

Nearly every element was specific: one artist and one producer; just three hours on three days in three distinct spaces on three particular pianos. Such was the architecture of the latest project from award-winning multi-instrumentalist Kevin Hearn; in fact, the only parameter left unspecified was the music that would be performed and put to record on each of those days, in each of those places, on each instrument.

"I would go, play, and leave," Hearn explains. "Very little was said during the sessions, and there were no demos, run-throughs, re-dos, or edits. What you hear is what happened, there and then." Beyond capturing the performance, Howard would at times add flourishes atop Hearn's compositions – delay effects and other sound treatments – reciprocating inspiration between one another.

The seeds of *There & Then* were planted amidst an earlier session. While he's earned accolades over the years as a multi-instrumentalist and musical director with the likes of the late Lou Reed, Canadian icons Rheostatics, and most recently, the Secret Path Band, carrying on the benevolent legacy of Gord Downie's project of the same name, Hearn is best known as a member of multi-platinum rock outfit Barenaked Ladies. Howard was tapped to produce the band's 2021 offering, *Detour de Force*. One morning, Howard commented on a piece Hearn was playing to warm up. When he learned that it – like many such morning musings during those sessions – was made up on the spot, he was adamant that they make an album in that vein. "After the record was finished and we'd all dispersed, Mark got in touch with me and reiterated how much he'd like to try that," recalls Hearn. "I suggested we find pianos in old hotels and other cool haunts and, especially in the middle of a pandemic, where we were limited in what we could do, Mark was really drawn to the idea."

The sessions were, like many things at the time, rigidly insular. On their first mid-December day of recording, they were in Montreal's decommissioned Notre Dame de la Defense Church, notes drenched in the prolonged decay of its ample and immaculate space. Two days later, they entered the sublime acoustic environment of Studio Pierre Marchand, anchored by its stunning Fazioli grand. The third and final day was in nearby Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts at the famous StoneHaven le Manoir inn, with its antiquated piano set up fireside in its stately and serene lounge. After each session, Howard would isolate and distill the most powerful segments. While every captured passage was created in the moment, *There & Then* carries bits and pieces of Hearn's experiences, influences, and emotions, past and present. Ad-libbing on the upright Heintzman in his childhood home, a long love of Debussy, collaborations with genius throughout his career, and of course, the forced introspection of a global pandemic – all and more manifest themselves, intangibly but certainly, in these carefully curated 13 movements across 53 minutes.

The recordings themselves can be described as pristine and pure in how they capture the bare essence of these spaces, these instruments, two artists, and all that emanated from and within each. Sometimes airy and playful, others intense or conflicted, but always compelling. Owing to the unique nature of the project and all that's woven into it, Hearn admits he enjoys hearing about other people's interpretations of the music – or, in the case of artist Willo Downie, seeing them. The paintings she produced while listening to the record ultimately became its cover art, encasing one creative interpretation in another. "This was a direct plug-in to emotion, and I've never made a record that way before," Hearn shares in closing. "I wanted to create something beautiful, though it partly came from painful memories and the overwhelming feelings many of us were faced with during the pandemic. It wasn't always right or perfect, but when it worked, it worked. The whole experience left me with a sense of renewed confidence, and a reminder that something that happens and then disappears within a moment can be really special."

This past spring, Hearn released his **self-composed original motion picture soundtrack** for [There Are No Fakes](#), which was **nominated for six Canadian Screen Awards**. Presented by Celery Music and Cave 7 Productions, the original soundtrack is available now on [digital platforms](#) and a [limited edition vinyl](#). Directed by **Jamie Kastner** and made by an Indigenous and non-Indigenous team, **There Are No Fakes** takes a riveting deep dive into the tragic history of Indigenous art forgery and exploitation. Prior to its much-lauded premiere with sold-out screenings, the documentary was voted top arts film at the 2019 Hot Docs International Documentary Festival. This helped win a precedent-setting appeal that reversed an Ontario superior court ruling, and launched a criminal investigation into widespread fraudulent production of and distribution of Indigenous art. The film follows Kevin Hearn's journey as he looks for the truth about the origins of a painting he bought, allegedly painted by iconic Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau. Once dubbed "The Picasso Of The North" by fellow artist Marc Chagall, Morrisseau is the creator of the Woodland School, revered for one of only three major strains of Indigenous art. Hearn ends up exposing the brutal world of an art forgery ring in Thunder Bay, with Hearn's score marking the emotional and cathartic expression of his own experience in this dark and twisted tale.

### **There And Then: Solo Piano Improvisations Tracklist**

01. Reminiscence
02. The Green Church
03. Lonely Lately
04. L'ou
05. Among The Stars
06. Strange Waters
07. Lana'i
08. Rooms
09. Procession
10. The Train Museum
11. Les Rouleaux De Printemps
12. Aren't We Lucky?
13. The Garth Institute



Download hi-res press photo of Kevin Hearn [HERE](#) | Photo Credit: Matt Barnes

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### **About Kevin Hearn**

A gifted composer, in-demand collaborator, and ever-active musical force with zero interest in creative stagnancy, Hearn cut his teeth collaborating with the likes of Look People, Corky and the Juice Pigs, and revered art-rock outfit Rheostatics before formally joining Barenaked Ladies in 1995. As the group's profile swelled in the ensuing years, he explored new sonic ground with a series of innovative and imaginative solo albums. One of the most respected and sought-after Toronto musicians of the past 25 years, Hearn's projects always attract brilliant collaborators including Ron Sexsmith, Dan Hill, Michael Ray of the Sun Ra Arkestra, Carole Pope, Mary Margaret O'Hara, Alan Doyle, The Persuasions, Violent Femmes, Colin Hay and drummer Rob Kloet (the Nits). One of his most rewarding creative and personal relationships of all was with the legendary Lou Reed, for whom Hearn acted as musical director and keyboardist from 2007 until his passing in 2013. Hearn was inducted into the *Canadian Music Hall of Fame* in 2018 as part of Barenaked Ladies. He released his ninth album, the captivating and compelling *Calm and Cents*, which was nominated for *Instrumental Album of the Year* at the 2020 JUNO Awards. Hearn also re-released his entire solo catalogue, which dates back to 1997's debut *Mothball Mint*, and included a first time digital release of the sold-out 2019 Record Store Day Canada project *Kevin Hearn & Friends Present: The Superhero Suite*, nominated by the JUNO Awards for *Album Artwork of the Year*.

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