

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Isaiah Stewart releases *Thrill Ride*, fourth studio album features Jamie Glaser, guitarist for Yes' Jon Anderson, Jean-Luc Ponty, Chick Corea, Quincy Jones and Bryan Adams

Tony Williams-inspired album explores new worlds in jazz, funk, rock, hip-hop and heavy metal

SALT LAKE CITY, July 1, 2015 / PR Newswire – Jazz-rock drummer and worldwide recording artist **Isaiah Stewart** announces the release of his fourth album *Thrill Ride*.

Thrill Ride features **Jamie Glaser**, the world-renowned jazz-rock guitarist famous for his work with **Jon Anderson (Yes), Jean-Luc Ponty, Chick Corea, Manhattan Transfer, Quincy Jones** and **Bryan Adams**.

"Having Jamie Glaser as a featured guest artist on this album is a wonderful honor," Stewart says. "I have been a diehard fan of his phenomenal guitar playing for many years and collaborating with one of my musical idols is truly a dream come true."

Glaser says it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience to work with Stewart and be included on the project.

"Working with Isaiah was indeed a special musical journey, and I am honored to be someone he trusted with his vision," Glaser says. "Isaiah's music is always packed with so much energy, melody and groove, and this new album captures the essence of what is so great about this seasoned artist. *Thrill Ride* is music that kicks; music that moves you; and music that enables you to discover exciting new things no matter how often you listen."

Thrill Ride is available at **cdbaby, iTunes** and **Amazon**.

During the past 16 years, Listeners around the world have streamed and/or downloaded music from Stewart's prior albums more than 6.5 million times. *Thrill Ride* is similar in style to past efforts but, according to Stewart, will be more "upbeat" and "hard-rocking," offering listeners even more diversity: "everything

from smooth jazz to heavy metal - from fusion to funky vocal pop – from old school psychedelic rock to tribal hip hop and even percussion-oriented soundtrack music.”

The musically diverse vision for *Thrill Ride* is the result of a late-night conversation between Stewart and his drum idol, late jazz legend **Tony Williams**.

"I was hanging with Tony one night and he was his usual sarcastic raconteur self, making jokes about pretty much everything," Stewart explains. "Tony is typically upbeat, witty and funny – but stopped joking when I told him how much I loved his musical diversity.

“Tony is, of course, world renowned for jazz but was equally skilled at playing rock with two bass drums and had even performed heavy metal with **Ronnie Montrose** and **Edgar Winter**,” Stewart continues. “When I told Tony how amazing it was that he could play everything from swing to thrashing heavy metal his humor and sarcasm subsided, and he says to me in a very thoughtful, serious manner, ‘*Yeah, well, it’s not about labels. An artist should never care about labels? It’s about music. If you like it ... play it.*’”

To Stewart, having his idol Williams speak those words to him was akin to an army private receiving orders from a commanding officer.

"I took Tony’s words to heart," Stewart says. "The music on this album is about Tony’s free spirit. It's about being true to all the different genres of music that I love – from dreamy smooth jazz to in-your-face thrashing heavy metal – and everything in between. Tony had incredible diversity as both a drummer and artist and I’m trying to follow his amazing example.”

But while Williams provided the musical creative spark for *Thrill Ride*, jazz legend **Chick Corea** – who often creates concept albums where the songs provide individual chapters to a single musical narrative – inspired the larger thematic tapestry of the album.

“Like Corea, I love science fiction,” Stewart says, “but rather than borrow from popular writers, I opted to brainstorm my own storyline. I had this crazy idea for a jazz-rock concept album that combined: a futuristic urban landscape; a cool, rebellious hero; a fiery-red muscle car; ominous approaching storm clouds; and an alien invasion.”

Hence, *Thrill Ride* is an album of 12 related songs. Stewart’s narrative takes place on an urban super-highway in the future shortly after the protagonist, Johnny Cool, wins a customized classic “red devil car” during an all-night poker game in Neptune 5, a futuristic metropolis known for its tribal drum music, gambling and nightlife.

“As the skies darken on the horizon, Johnny embarks on his journey, unaware

the gathering storm clouds conceal alien attack ships ready for invasion,” Stewart explains. “The music I composed for this album illustrates Johnny's adventures as he races to stay one step ahead of interstellar firepower and the unknown fate that awaits him.”

A serendipitous coincidence was that Glaser, one of the original guitarists for the **Chick Corea Elektric Band**, wound up as a special guest performer on *Thrill Ride*.

“This was not planned but ended up being a nice surprise,” Stewart says. “It’s terrific to have one of Chick’s most talented sidemen along for my musical journey – especially when the idea for a sci-fi narrative was inspired by so many of Corea’s albums.”

A jazz-trained pianist and professional drummer since age 6, Isaiah has studied both acoustic and electronic drums with many of the world's most renowned players and is known for his technically impressive yet groove-oriented approach.

Since releasing his previous three albums: *Life Games* (2000), *Urban Playground* (2005), and *Groove Garden* (2005), Stewart has maintained a unique worldwide position with listeners throughout over 30 different countries. He says his success as an independent artist is largely due to fundamental changes occurring in the music industry.

“It’s a brave new world in the music industry today. There are literally more varieties of music available than ever before, and the Internet has made it so listeners can seek out the music they love most with the click of a button. It’s a very exciting time for music lovers and a terrific time to be an indie musician.”

Still there are challenges for independent artists like Stewart as major record labels and a slew of independents vie to promote their artists to a global sea of online consumers.

"The challenges seem insurmountable at times but that’s what keeps me going," Stewart says. "I stay positive and focus on the victories. For example there are fans throughout China, India and the Middle East listening to my music and I constantly get fan mail from around the world in languages I don’t even understand. My wife translates all the Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French and German. The rest I read and answer with Google Translate.”

Also helping Stewart “stay positive” are the many featured guest artists featured on *Thrill Ride* in addition to Glaser: **Joshua Stewart** (piano solos), **Terence Hansen** (guitars), **Dave Chisholm** (trumpet), **John Flanders** (saxophones and flute), **David Halliday** (saxophones), **Shawn Vincent** (6-string bass), **Carter Black** (lead vocals), and **My Bad** (freestyle rapping).

“All the guest artists on this album have their own successful music careers,” Stewart says, “and I consider myself their biggest fan. There is nothing more

awe-inspiring than listening to all these musical virtuosos perform in studio, and when I collaborate with them I try to think like an audience member rather than a producer.

“When it comes to making music, I sometimes think producers can be overly analytical,” Stewart continues. “Audience members, on the other hand, don’t think so much. They live in the moment, do not judge, and respond to the excitement of creative spontaneity as it happens around them. It makes for a better musical experience and that’s what I try to achieve when I’m producing. My featured artists are the best musicians around and I give them the artistic freedom to do what they do best. My job is to capture their musical genius for my listeners.”

Comprising 76 minutes of all-original music, *Thrill Ride* stands as an extraordinary musical achievement for Stewart and he has the highest possible hopes for the project.

“When I make music, my hopes are always about one thing and one thing only: to make people’s lives better,” Stewart says. “I want my music to have the same effect on my listeners as it does on me: I want to excite and inspire, and the music on *Thrill Ride* joins the seasoned talents of artists like Jamie Glaser with inspiration from jazz greats like Tony Williams and Chick Corea to deliver the best musical experience possible.”

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Isaiah Stewart / Thrill Ride

1. **Thrill Ride** (7.20)
2. **Drive** (6.38)
3. **Storm Chase** (6.06)
4. **Best I Ever Had** (5.46)
5. **Nasty Moves** (8.01)
6. **Red Devil Car** (6.16)
7. **Johnny Cool** (6.50)
8. **Beat The Drum** (5.20)
9. **Starships** (3.22)
10. **Neptune 5** (7.12)
11. **Boiling Point** (6.16)

12. **Invaders** (6.41)

ISAIAH STEWART acoustic drums, electronic V-drums, all acoustic & electric pianos (excluding solos), keyboard synthesizers, trombone, congas, bongos, dumbek, djembe, percussion, programming

JAMIE GLASER electric guitars (1,3,6,7,10)

JOSHUA STEWART acoustic grand piano & Rhodes electric piano solos

TERENCE HANSEN electric guitars

DAVE CHISHOLM lead trumpet & all trumpet solos

JOHN FLANDERS alto & tenor saxophones, flutes

DAVID HALLIDAY alto & tenor saxophones (1,5,6,7)

SHAUN VINCENT 6-string electric bass

CARTER BLACK lead vocals

MY BAD freestyle rap

Backing horns **JOHN STEWART** trumpet **JAMES STEWART** alto saxophone

Recorded, mixed, post-produced and mastered in 24-bit 96-kHz digital by Isaiah Stewart at **Fortress Hill Studios** (Cottonwood Heights, UT) and **The Playground** (Salt Lake City, UT)

Digital illustration, photography, graphic design and art direction: **Russell Anders**

Executive producer: **John Stewart**

Legal affairs: **Madison & Mroz, PA**

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