One-Sheet and Press Release

The Baden Baden Suite

the new piano-bass duo EP from Billy Test and John Goldsby … compositions by John Goldsby … swinging, melodic, modern mainstream jazz …

Listen here: https://orcd.co/j1n3lmz

Release Date: August 18, 2023 — all platforms
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Track Listing:

"Blue Balloon" (Goldsby)
"Kléopatre's Secret" (Goldsby)
"Café de la Paix" (Goldsby)
"You Can Call Him Maestro" (Goldsby)
"Dahlia Garden" (Goldsby)
"The Baron's Dilemma" (Goldsby)

Billy Test: Piano
John Goldsby: Double Bass

Producer: Robin Meloy Goldsby
Recording and Mastering: Reinhard Kobialka, Topaz Studios Köln
Cover Illustration and Design: Julia Goldsby

Press Release:

Jazz pianist Billy Test and bassist John Goldsby announce the release of their third duo album, *The Baden Baden Suite*. Building on the success of their previous two EPs, *I'll Be Around* and *Speak with a Purpose,* the recording showcases the duo's versatility as they explore the jazz tradition, playing straight-ahead swing, hard bop, funky grooves, and gorgeous ballads. This EP features compositions by John Goldsby—conceived during his sabbatical in the German city of Baden Baden.

Says Goldsby, "The compositions are a collage of the people, sights, and sounds I encountered during my long stay in this enchanted place." Goldsby pens six vivid vignettes for the duo to celebrate the lush heritage of the piano/bass duo format with their unique and individual style.

As members of the Grammy-Award-winning WDR Big Band, Test and Goldsby continually explore a multitude of musical styles with some of the world's best jazz musicians. They breathe and speak as one voice, showcasing harmonically rich music with a unique narrative. *The Baden Baden Suite* contrasts the duo's previous releases by presenting all original compositions from Goldsby, highlighting his personality as a composer and pianist.

Goldsby says, "Early on in my development as a musician, I was mesmerized by Oscar Pettiford's recordings from his time in Baden Baden in the late '50s. The city has also been home to many other great musicians over the decades, like Clara and Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms during the 19th century when it was considered the Capitale d'été — the summer hot spot. *The Baden Baden Suite* captures a reflection of my stay in this charmed city."

The opening track, "Blue Balloon," suggests a hard bop tune from a '60s Blue Note record. Test and Goldsby display their groove and earthiness while playing on familiar harmonic structures. Goldsby penned the tune shortly after

arriving in Baden Baden and seeing a huge, blue, hot air balloon perched in the sky—a floating, magical, colorful bubble—carrying people who were literally hanging in the balance—wanting to see the world from a different perspective. “Hanging in the balance” is a metaphor for a situation that is uncertain or undecided—suggesting an outcome could go either way, and that there is a lot at stake. The title of the tune “Blue Balloon” paints a picture of groovy hopeful swing with sections that loosely hang in the balance.

The lilting waltz “Kléopatre’s Secret” creates a dream sequence between melancholy and hopefulness. This tune is a portrait of a famous cat—the Brenners Park “Kléopatre” who continues to rein supreme over her very large estate.

“Café de la Paix” reflects on the beautiful painting of the same name by Russian impressionist Konstantin Korowin, a disciple of the Moscow School of Painting, who spent time in Baden Baden and Paris—soaking in the culture and style of the impressionist movement of the period. His work shows the bustling character, elegance, and beauty of one of the most famous Parisian cafes, *Café de la Paix*—the café of peace.

Goldsby’s composition alludes to the vibrant colors and dynamic brushstrokes seen in *Café de la Paix,* depicting the groovy atmosphere of the Parisian café in

the 1860s, where artists, writers and musicians gathered to exchange ideas and enjoy the culture. Goldsby's musical interpretation of the painting is a delicate celebration of life, beauty, and creativity, revealing Korowin's passion and admiration for the city of lights.

"You Can Call Him Maestro" frames a funky acoustic tribute to all people who sport the title of "Maestro"—whether they have earned the title as a musical virtuoso, or just possibly like the sound and pomp of the moniker—everyone can call themselves "Maestro"! This track lays down a light-hearted jazzy feeling—a soundtrack accompaniment for a chill vibe and positive outlook.

The peaceful ballad "Dahlia Garden" is a love song inspired by the dahlia garden in the Lichtenthaler Allee in Baden Baden. The flowers compose a symphony in hundreds of variations—wildly different shapes, colors, and sizes. Love is like a dahlia garden—blooming in countless variations, where each flower grows to be unique, delicate, and beautiful.

An up-tempo swinger, "The Baron's Dilemma" reflects on the hectic life of an everyday Baron (an inherited title of German royalty, no longer officially recognized). You flit from here to there, worrying about things that most mortals have no idea about—hosting feasts, wearing fancy clothes, collecting art, and hunting wild boars—plus you are obliged to deal with all the other Barons, Dukes, Counts, Lords, Princes, and Princesses who might be jealous of you and your many possessions—or who want you to marry their sister.

The Baden Baden Suite drops on all major streaming platforms on August 18, 2023. Test and Goldsby are performing album release concerts throughout 2023.

For more information about *The Baden Baden Suite*, Bass Lion Publishing, or Test and Goldsby's upcoming events, please visit their websites and follow them on social media.

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