**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Arshak Sirunyan (Producer & Featured Artist) releases “Hoodman’s Blind”, a stylish and multifaceted musical journey through the imagination of a gifted composer and musician.**

**This Kickstarter funded outing features the talents of a global and renowned collective of musicians including, Mike Stern, Eric Marienthal, Omar Hakim, Cheikh Ndoye, Chieli Minucci, Arto Tuncboyaciyan and many more.**

It may be early in the year, but pianist/composer **Arshak Sirunyan**’s ***Hoodman’s Blind*** is likely to be one of the most unique and compelling releases in 2014. The Armenian born musician was a finalist in that country’s prestigious National J. S. Bach Concerto Competition in 1994. Now a Washington DC resident, he has assembled a top-tier ensemble of award-winning artists from around the globe in creating this transformative collection of genre-defying compositions.

Inspired by the medieval predecessor of the game “Blindman’s Bluff”, Arshak has woven a tale that creatively captures the strategy and visceral emotions of the earlier, and far more raucous, version of the game. Arshak efficiently captures the rollercoaster of emotions as he reimagines the game on a grander and more dangerous level.

Adding to overall experience of ***Hoodman’s Blind*** is multi-media aspect of the project including the reproduction of paintings from the UK, Turkey, Serbia, South Africa, China and US. The CD’s beautifully rendered insert features original art by Lin Chen (Siege Warfare), Onur Bakar (I’m Cold), Gloria Scholik (The Mirror), Vuk Kostic (Army), Lily Coulombe (Jester) and Ben Andrews (Market Day).

The Lineup

Bassist **Cheikh Ndoye** serves double-duty on ***Hoodman’s Blind*** acting as the album’s Associate Producer. A regular collaborator with Arshak, the synergy and shared vision comes through in every track.

***Hoodman’s Blind*** also features the talents of Eric Marienthal a former member of the **Chick Corea Elektric Band** who played on two of their multiple Grammy award winning albums. He has also performed with a number of industry giants including **Elton John**, **Billy Joel**, **Stevie Wonder**, **Aaron Neville**, **The Rippingtons**, and **The Yellowjackets**.

Saxophonist and composer **Bob Franceschini** performed on **Mike Stern**'s Grammy Nominated album ***Voices*** and has appeared as a sideman on scores of recordings from pop luminaries such as **Paul Simon** and **Celine Dion** and Latin stars **Willie Colón**, **Tito Puente**, and **Eddie Palmieri**.

Guitartist **Chieli Minucci** is best known as leader of the Grammy-nominated **Special EFX**. In addition, he has performed with pop artists such as **Lionel Richie**, **Jennifer Lopez**, **Jewel**, and **Jessica Simpson**. Minucci’s also has a rich jazz history recording and performing with **Jay Beckenstein** , **Marion Meadows**, **Gerald Veasley** and **Bob Baldwin**, among others. In addition, Minucci has earned several Emmy Awards for his extensive work in television.

Drummer **Raul Pineda** is another Grammy winner with a 2000 award for Best Latin Jazz Performance with the Chucho Valdés Quartet album, Live at the Village Vanguard. In addition, Pineda has been nominated for three additional Grammys.

Armenian singer, percussionist , multi-instrumentalist and Grammy winner **Arto Tunçboyacıyan** has worked with jazz legends such as **Joe Zawinul**, **Chet Baker**, **Paul Winter** and **Al Di Meola**. His diverse musical offerings have also been featured on two motion picture soundtracks.

Drummer **John Lamkin III**, an East Coast fixture has worked with Dexter Gordon,  Lionel Hampton, Roy Hargrove, and Kenny Garrett to mention just a few. He shares the drumming role with **Omar Hakim** who has long worked across the genres of jazz, fusion and pop performing with vibraphonist **Mike Mainieri**, singer **Carly Simon**, **Weather Report** and **Sting**. Hakim supplied much of the drumming for Mark Knopfler’s **Dire Straits**' album ***Brothers in Arms*** and has worked in American television as well.

Likely the most familiar name in the ***Hoodman’s Blind*** lineup is that of jazz guitar great, **Mike Stern**. Prior to his stellar solo career, Stern had played with famed pop group **Blood, Sweat & Tears**, drummer **Billy Cobham** and, most notably, **Miles Davis**. Stern has won numerous awards and in 2009 was ranked on Down Beat's list of 75 best jazz guitarists.

Rounding out the international roster of performers are The **Vardanyan Quartet, Artyom Manukyan** (cello) and **Artur Yeghiazaryan** (tav shv**i),** Arshavir Isahakyan (French Horns) and Albert Ordinyan(Doumbek).

The Music

It’s clear from the opening piece, **Preface**, that ***Hoodman’s Blind*** is something different. Dark and brooding, it creates an air of mystery only to be shattered by the primordial rock beat of **Valor & Triumph**. As the piece progresses it’s augmented by the lush strings of the Vardanyan Quartet and **Chieli Minucci’s** searing guitar.

The tribal chant of **Celebration** adroitly captures the spirit of the title while further leading down the imagined paths that built into the suite-like nature of ***Hoodman’s Blind***. In this otherworldly swirl of musical styles there are themes that seem to circle back to their origins and then adventurously breakaway again.

Not content to settle into any one style, a bit of chamber-psychedelia emerges on **The Dawn is Promised** before **The Warrior Song** returns to a rock element but this time with subtle touches of Armenia folkloric themes. Arshak’s arrangement of Ashot Satyan’s tune breathes new life into the piece. There are more straight-ahead jazz pieces interwoven in the diverse mix of compositions as well but among the standouts are **Messenger** a stellar fusion accomplishment and **Imperfect Pearl**, a beautiful, soaring ballad.

Among the other stylistic variations that bring the global nature of ***Hoodman’s Blind to life are King’s Fool, a funky*** kaleidoscope of shifting momentum and **Old Market, a piece that is both** innocent and rollicking. Arshak’s piano and Artur Yeghiazaryan’s Armenian woodwinds create an organic hybrid with a life of its own.

***Hoodman’s Blind*** is a high-energy, totally engaging outing and these highly receptive musicians clearly share in Arshak’s mission. The group retains the energy and individualism inherent in these uncompromising modern works. ***Hoodman’s Blind*** is a strong and inventive collection that is sure to win Arshak a loyal following. The story, the music and the graphics create an unforgettable story.

**RELEASE DATE: MARCH 2, 2014**

www.kickstarter.com/projects/1516707619/**arshak**-**hoodmans**-**blind**

Karl Ackermann

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