

Liner notes to the CD re-release of "EYE OF THE BEHOLDER" (MPS-68282, recorded 1981)

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I've always been inspired to push the boundaries of music and instrumentation. From 1978 to 1982 I recorded four LPs for the MPS label.

I'm grateful to the late Joachim E. Behrend, whom I first met while on a European tour and in the studio while playing in Alphonse Mouzon's band. Behrend produced my first MPS LP and introduced me to label owner, the late Hans Georg Brunner-Schwer. Brunner-Schwer was very supportive, being a great piano fan, inventor and studio engineer. I'll never forget our meeting in his home studio in the Black Forest, when he asked me to play his wonderful piano, the same piano that Oscar Peterson had made such outstanding, legendary recordings on. He encouraged me to experiment musically and produce my later albums myself. My first MPS album, "**Solos - Duos - Trio**" (MPS-68202, recorded 1978) featured myself on piano and synthesizers with Larry Coryell on guitar and L. Subramaniam on violin. On it we played original music which spanned the gamut from East Indian influences to European contemporary Classical to an American Jazz standard. "**Piru**" (MPS-68262, recorded 1980) focused on more of my original compositions and improvisations, performed on solo piano.

By 1981 I was eager to write for a larger ensemble. My concept for "**Eye of the Beholder**" was to blend a burning acoustic Jazz trio with a string quartet, sax/flute & percussion. As a composer this instrumentation gave me a much broader sonic palette, while still allowing for extended improvisation. The synchronicity of the charts I wrote, the inspired performances by the musicians and the sublime sound and engineering in the studio combined to make "**Eye of the Beholder**" one of my most favorite albums.

This was also the recording debut for my brother Kenny (sax/flute), who went on to make albums of his own. He later played on two CDs of mine in the 2000s. I first met drummer Dave Crigger when we both were members of Don Ellis' last big band. Dave impressed me with his mastery of odd time signatures. He could burn it up in any meter and still make it feel natural, which was essential to playing my "**Eye of the Beholder**" charts. Dave introduced me to talented bassist Jim Lacefield, who unfortunately died way too young, a few years after these sessions. First violinist Doug Cameron contracted the members of the string quartet, all of whom are still top LA session musicians today. Percussionist Lee Pastora was a powerhouse on congas. Lee and I had toured together in Al Di Meola's first band. Lee also died way too young some years later.

After "**Eye of the Beholder**", I released one more MPS album, "**Live**" (MPS-68291, recorded 1982). This was a concert recording of my touring trio with myself on piano, Palle Danielsson on bass and Jon Christensen on drums, recorded in the Landesmuseum, Muenster, Germany.

From 1984 to 2004 I worked in the Los Angeles recording studios, first as a session musician and later as a film and TV composer. I built my first recording studio in 1986 and since then have recorded all my scores and albums in my own studios. In 2001 I released "**Going Home**" (RHO-7019), featuring my Jazz quartet including my brother Kenny on saxes and flute, Jeff Falkner on bass and Dave Renick on drums. This was followed by "**Dedication**" in 2002 (DED-1042) with the same musicians, on my record label, Dedication Records. After relocating to the Okanagan Valley wine country, BC, Canada in 2004, I released "**Reinventions**" (DED-2128), featuring my original compositions for violin and piano, played by violinist Denis Letourneau and myself. In 2006 I released "**Dark Clouds**" (DED-2181) which is a very interesting east-west fusion featuring piano, tabla and vocals, with the great Cassius Khan on table and vocals, and the recording debut of my daughter, Jennifer Lauren on vocals.

It's now been 27 years since we recorded "**Eye of the Beholder**". It's still one of my all time favorite albums. Since it's been out of print for so long I'm thrilled to see it released again on CD!

-- Stu Goldberg, August 2008

Today, Stu Goldberg continues composing, recording and performing. For updated info on what Stu's up to, as well as a virtual reel of his albums, and his film and TV scores, please visit his website: <https://stugoldberg.com>

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